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CONTENTS

- Discuss in detail the nature and significance of Karst Landforms. Mention few karst topographical areas in India. (20 Marks).
- How will you explain that Medieval Indian temple sculptures represent the social life of those days? (Answer in 150 words) UPSC MAINS 2022
- Why did the armies of the British East India Company – mostly comprising of Indian Soldiers – win consistently against the more numerous and better equipped armies of the then Indian rulers? Give reasons. (UPSC MAINS 2022)
- Why was there a sudden spurt in famines in colonial India since the mid-eighteenth century? Give reasons. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1)
- Describe the characteristics and types of primary rocks. UPSC MAINS 2022 - General Studies Paper 1

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Examine the utility of economic sanctions as an instrument of foreign policy.

■ Economic sanctions are **measures taken by one country or a group of countries to restrict trade, investment, and financial transactions with another country** in order to achieve specific foreign policy objectives. Economic sanctions are often **used as a non-military tool to pressure targeted countries to change their policies or behavior.**

■ Sanctions can take various forms, such as trade embargoes, financial restrictions, travel bans, and arms embargoes. Economic **sanctions have been used in a number of high-profile cases, including Iran,** North Korea, Russia, and Venezuela.

Advantages of economic sanctions

■ **Cost Effective:** Sanctions can be a relatively cost-effective tool compared to military action or other forms of coercion.

■ **Target a Specific Country:** sanctions can be a way of sending a signal to the targeted country that its behavior is unacceptable, and can put pressure on the government to change its policies.

■ For example, the United States imposed **economic sanctions on Iran to force it to abandon its nuclear program.** These sanctions targeted Iran''s oil industry, which is a critical source of revenue for the country.

■ The sanctions had a significant impact on Iran''s economy and led to negotiations that resulted in the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

■ **Provide International Support:** Sanctions can be a way of rallying international support and creating a united front against the targeted country.

■ **Avoids Collateral Damage:** Sanctions can be a way of **avoiding direct military confrontation, which can be costly and dangerous.**

■ For example, the USA and European Union imposed economic sanctions on Russia to protest its annexation of Crimea.

■ These sanctions targeted Russia''s banking and energy sectors, which are critical to the country''s economy. The sanctions have had a significant impact on Russia''s economy.

Limitations of economic sanctions

■ **Creates Humanitarian Crisis:** Sanctions can harm innocent civilians and create a humanitarian crisis in the targeted country.

■ **Harden the Stance of Targeted Government:** Sanctions can be counterproductive and can harden the resolve of the targeted government, making it less likely to change its policies.

- For example, the **United Nations imposed economic sanctions on North Korea to pressure it to abandon its nuclear program.** These sanctions targeted North Korea"s exports, particularly coal and iron ore, which are a critical source of revenue for the country.
    - The sanctions have had a limited impact on North Korea"s behavior, and the country has continued to develop its nuclear program.
- **Increase the Role of Third-Party Actors:** Sanctions can be undermined by third-party actors, such as black-market traders or other countries that are willing to flout the sanctions.
- **Ineffective in Self Sustain Economy:** Sanctions can be ineffective if the targeted country has a strong economy and is able to find alternative markets and sources of funding.
- **Factors contributing to the success or failure of economic sanctions:**
    - **International support:** The level of international support for the sanctions can be a significant factor.
        - If the sanctions are supported by a large number of countries, they are more likely to be effective.
- **Economic Strength:** the strength of the targeted country"s economy can be a factor.
    - If the country has a diversified economy and can find alternative markets and sources of funding, the sanctions may be less effective.
- **Nature of Foreign Policy Objective:** the nature of the foreign policy objective can be a factor.
    - If the objective is achievable and clearly defined, the sanctions may be more likely to succeed. However, if the objective is too broad or ambiguous, the sanctions may be less effective.

Summing up

Economic sanctions can be an effective tool for achieving foreign policy objectives, but their success depends on a range of factors While there have been cases where economic sanctions have been successful, there have also been cases where they have failed or had unintended consequences. Policymakers should carefully consider the advantages and limitations of economic sanctions before using them as a tool of foreign policy, and should also explore alternative strategies for achieving their objectives.

Do you think AFSPA is necessary to maintain law and order in disturbed areas?.

In 1958, the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Bill (AFSPA) was enacted by Parliament and signed into law by the President in response to rising unrest in the North-Eastern States. It grants the military forces the authority to preserve public order in "disturbed places" by using force or opening fire if they believe a person is breaking the law. In the event of wrongdoing, the armed forces are immune from legal punishment.

Criticisms w.r.t. AFSPA

1. **Colonial-era law:** The AFSPA is sometimes linked to the Rowlatt Act of the British government because, similar to the Rowlatt Act, any suspected individual may be arrested only on the basis of reasonable suspicion.
2. The AFSPA is in **violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Khangjom Manorama case and consequent protests against Assam Rifles reflected this very well.
3. The legislation has **failed to curb terrorism and restore normality** in troubled regions since the number of armed organizations has increased since its inception. Many hold it accountable for the escalating violence in regions where it is in effect.
4. It is argued that **states themselves should be competent to handle** the situation. Rather than spending money on the military, it would be more democratic to upgrade state capabilities.
5. The **2005 BP Jeevan Reddy Committee on the Northeast and the 2007 Veerappa Moily Report** of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission both recommended that the Act be abolished.
6. The **Justice Verma Committee (2013) and the Justice Hegde Commission (2013)** endorsed addressing the abuses done under the AFSPA and eliminating the security forces" effective impunity. The Hegde Commission (2013) said that all seven killings in the six incidents, it studied, in Manipur were the result of extrajudicial executions.

Need for the AFSPA

1. The **Army believes** that the AFSPA is extremely necessary to fight domestic insurgency and preserve the nation"s frontiers.
2. **Protection of members of the armed forces** - It is essential to empower members of the military forces whose lives are continuously threatened by rebels and extremists. Its absence would negatively affect morale.
3. The Act and Army regulations offer necessary protections, as outlined below: - According to **Section 5 of the Act**, apprehended civilians must be delivered to the closest police station with the "least feasible delay" and a "report of the circumstances that led to the arrest."

4. **Effective Counterinsurgency**: Strong legislation is required to combat insurgent groups inside the nation, especially in Kashmir and the northeastern area.

5. The presence of proxy groups in troubled regions necessitates the use of extraordinary means to break this connection. As the **armed services confront asymmetric warfare** including raids, ambushes, mines, and explosives, extraordinary abilities are also required.

Although AFSPA is required to counter insurgencies, the lack of development in the Northeast region is a major reason for the insurgency. Therefore, the government should take urgent steps to create new opportunities for growth and development. Additionally, AFSPA should be made more comprehensive with elaborate rules with respect to the method of investigating alleged human rights violations to reduce the possibility of misusing it.

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Examine the utility of E-technology in the aid of farmers. How will the launch of a digital crop survey in 10 states benefit farmers?.

- The agricultural sector in India constitutes around half of the workforce and still contributes to around 16-18% of our gross domestic product with more than 80% of farmers being small and marginal ones. This points to the need for transformation in agriculture which can be brought about with the help of e-technology.
- E technology is an overarching term incorporating all modes of transmission like electronic devices, satellite communication, mobile, services helping in information dissemination, etc. with help of technology.

Potentials of E-Technology

- **Improved decision-making at farmer levels** by dissemination of relevant and timely information regarding agri- inputs, suitable farming techniques, etc. This can be done through platforms such as Kisan SMS Portal, Kisan Sabha App, etc. Increased access and Use of digital tools such as mobile apps can help farmers access timely information.
- **Improved productivity** for example by use of drones in agriculture farms.
- **By providing better linkages to the market** for the direct selling of crop produce without intermediaries to boost incomes. An example is e National Agriculture Market(eNAM) a pan-India electronic trading portal to provide better price discovery to farmers.
- **Financial inclusion through the provision of credit, custom hiring, and insurance services** through technology helps farmers manage risks and invest better. For example, FARMS (Farm machinery solutions) app provides a better reach of agriculture machinery and equipment on a rental basis.
- **Use of technology like real-time surveillance for better supply chain logistics** to enable end-to-end tracing of farm produce. This helps in consumer trust to ensure increased incomes and the development of a reliable market for farmers.

E Technology to contribute to food security of the nations

- **Improved crop yields due to the use of real-time data** such as **weather-based information for example by the use of the Meghdoot app.**
- **Provide precise and accurate information** to policymakers for decision-making to roll out region-specific policies for example providing accurate pricing signals to farmers judging the data of cropping patterns. The use of geographical information systems, and remote sensing through satellites is crucial here.
- **Reduction of food wastage** through the use of technology such as GPS(Global Positioning Systems) tracking, and Radio Frequency Identification DeviceTracking(RFID). This will ensure a reduction of post-harvest losses which is presently more than

90000 crore rupee as per NITI Aayog. More food safety can be ensured by promoting best practices through technology on handling, storage, etc.

■ **By better market linkages such as the use of eNAM**, consumers will also have a better reach of food at affordable prices with little role of intermediaries.

Realizing this potential, the Centre plans to launch a digital crop survey from the Kharif-2023 season across 10 states. The survey will collect information on different types of crops sown by farmers in their fields through an automated process by using "Geo-Referenced maps" of the farmland plots and remote sensing images.

Along with the advantages,

e-agriculture has lots of problems

like technical feasibility of connectivity in rural areas, cost involved in ensuring services, need for basic computer literacy, etc. Some of those problems are:-

■ The reach of the technology is still very poor and a large number of farmers are still ignorant about such advancements.

■ The distribution of technologies is not uniform throughout the country.

■ The use of technology is being used by the already big-scale farmers is pushing the wealth gap wider. The small and marginal farmers are again being left out in the process of development.

■ Due to the low literacy rate among farmers and the digital divide, there is a rise of a new class of middlemen, who provide ICT services to farmers.

■ The rural infrastructure for the use of ICT is also not uniform and a lot of regional disparity persists.

Benefits of the survey

■ It will provide near real-time information about crops and enable accurate and transparent estimates of crops sown in states, crop identification for improved production, crop grown area, yield estimation from crop-sown data, and more.

■ It will also help with the easy implementation of departmental schemes focused on crops, easy verification, estimation, and settlement of crop insurance claims.

■ Better assessment of cropping patterns for assessing environmental impacts can be ensured.

■ Improving the market from the village to national levels by better information on agriculture through this survey.

Thus, India should envision an inclusive use of e-technology through the effective implementation of the Digital India mission. This would help us ensure inclusive development along with ensuring food security in the nation.

What does 'accountability' mean in the context of public service? What measures can be adopted to ensure individual and collective accountability of public servants?

Accountability refers to the act of being held responsible for one's actions. In the context of public service, public servants are/must be accountable to the public at large for their actions. The public servants must be able to explain and answer to questions arising from their conduct, and accepts any blame or liability that ensues from their actions.

Actions to ensure public officials' individual and collective accountability

- **Improve transparency about the viability of large projects:**Make use of technology to **digitize information** relevant to important projects and set project deadlines.
- **Clarify what citizens get for their money in terms of public services:** Strengthen the citizen charter in each major department, and make the use of money received by each department and how they are spent visible every year.
- **Reward for exceptional work and review for failures:** Promotion should be based on outstanding performance rather than seniority. Failures to meet objectives must also be considered.
- **Mandatory Social Auditing:** States such as **Meghalaya** have passed social audit laws, which should be expanded across the country. India
- Instill a code of ethics in civil officials that is consistent with the code of conduct.
- **Defined roles and responsibilities, with corresponding authority and resources:** There must be a clear basis for assigning certain responsibilities and activities to different levels of the system. Second, the delegation of duties and responsibilities must be complemented by the delegation of resources to enable officials to carry out their tasks.
- **Reduce Discretion**: System should be made more objective by minimizing the discretionary power of individuals.

Accountability is very necessary to weed out corruption and ensure the lives of citizens are improved.

Distinguish between Look East and Act East policy. India's Act East Policy provides an interface between North East India and the ASEAN region. Discuss.

Look East .vs. Act East

India's Look East policy initiated in 1991, marked a strategic shift in India's perspective of the world. In 2014 India's Act East Policy, became a successor to the Look-East Policy.

Act East Policy	Look East Policy
Act East Policy was launched in 2014	Look East Policy was launched in 1991
It was launched by the Current Prime Minister of India – Narendra Modi	It was launched by former Prime Minister of India – PV Narasimha Rao
India was in a very favorable position from the perspective of economic might when the Act East Policy was launched in 2014.	India had a very fragile economy when Look East Policy was launched, due to the 1991 Economic crisis. India was in a transition phase to a liberalized economy.
Focus is more on boosting economic co-operation, building infrastructure for greater connectivity, importantly strategic & security ties	Focus more on boosting economic co-operation.
This was initiated to tackle the changing Geo-political scenario due to dominance by China, in the South China Sea and its increasing influence in the Indian Ocean Region.	The Indian economy was heavily dependent on the Soviet Union, but the fall of the Soviet Bloc propelled India to look at alternative regions, i.e. South East Asia to sustain the economy. India realized there was immense scope for growth in the region, as Japan and China had already become major economic players in the region.
Act East Policy has a greater strategic and political angle to the cooperation. Relationships with Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, Australia have been upgraded to a strategic	The focus was more on boosting trade and investment relations with Southeast Asian countries. There was not much focus on Quad – India, USA, Japan, and Australia or up-gradation

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partnership to counter the dominance of China in the entire region.	to the strategic partnership with other nations in the region.
Focusing more on historical, cultural, linguistic, and religious ties through more people-to-people exchanges.	Historical ties between India and ASEAN were not given much prominence and therefore not capitalized in its Look East Policy.
Heavy focus is being given to the development of the North East region. India believes that the North East region of India can be the gateway to East Asia and Southeast Asia. Japan is helping India by providing funds for many infrastructure projects.	North East of India was neglected in its plans of forging deeper ties with East Asia.
India is collaborating with Japan in developing infrastructure in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Bangladesh	India did not focus on developing infrastructure in other countries.
Greater focus on defense cooperation	Not much focus on defense cooperation

Opportunities for North east India from India's Act East policy

- *Economic & Connectivity*
  - The region will directly benefit from the economic projects with ASEAN like **Kaladan multi modal project** and Free trade agreement with ASEAN.
  - Infrastructure connectivity projects like **Urja Ganga project** will connect **North east Grid** with **National Grid**. **National waterway 2** will boost affordable intra-region connectivity.
  - The ASEAN region and Japan can act as a ready market for industries in the North east region.
- *Cultural*
  - The ancient cultural connectivity between North east region and ASEAN will act a key for people to people connectivity and promote regional peace and inter-government relationship.

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- ■ Further, India has historical connectivity with Eastern region through spread of Buddhist values in South East Asia, Japan and China.
    - ■ *Strategic*
        - ■ The eastern region is significant in the changing geopolitical scenario in which significance of Indo-Pacific is growing. North east is the key to connect with the region in the changing scenario.
        - ■ The border dispute as considered by China in the North east region required better cooperation with other regional countries and also boosting infrastructure in the region.
    - ■ *Political*
        - ■ Multiple means of Institutional framework are promoting India's cooperation with the region which acts as a bridge among nations.
        - ■ India has been cooperating with not only democracies but also Military rule in Myanmar reflects flexibility in partnership.
        - ■ India has been able to do surgical strikes in Myanmar against anti India groups due to smooth cooperation between the two.

Impediments for North East in harnessing opportunities

While the policy is well intentioned, there are certain challenges that need to be tackled at domestic as well as international levels to make it a success. Some of the impediments are-

- ■ *Political*
    - ■ Chinese intervention in the region as the country considers some areas as part of China.
    - ■ China has gained round among ethnic Chinese across the region. It is also assumed that certain anti- India groups has linkages with groups in Myanmar and China
    - ■ Naga peace talks have not been successful and people protest against AFSPA regularly.
- ■ *Economic*
    - ■ First, unstable political environment in the region pushes away economic investments in the region from the eastern partners.
    - ■ Second, the pandemic has further tightened the domestic spending in the region.
- ■ *Others*
    - ■ China views India as a rival in the Indo pacific region and it pushing infrastructure connectivity in border areas at a faster pace. Secondly, deep pockets of China make it easy to connect the region through its projects like Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
    - ■ Inadequate connectivity of the region with the mainstream.

Looking forward

While there are a lot of domestic and regional challenges, 'Act East policy' act as a catalyst to connect the North eastern India with the ASEAN and beyond. Some more steps can be taken in this direction-

- Moving along the policy of Non-aligned movement, India can chalk out its own way in connecting with the region that can boost industrial growth in the region.
- Highlighting the cultural ties along the Buddhism and Hinduism, and the current connection through Indian diaspora, India can have better people to people contacts than China in the region.
- Student exchanges with partner countries mainly from the North east, can promote better cooperation and remittances in the region.
- Lastly, investing in domestic political issues and resolving anti India sentiments can lure sustainable political investments in the region.

North east region with its ethnic, cultural and border connections can act as a gateway to the eastern region and make 'Act East policy' a success.

Big cats are a group of predatory felines that include lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars, snow leopards, etc., with their ability to roar being their most unique aspect. They play a crucial role as top predators, regulating prey populations and maintaining balance in their ecosystems, promoting biodiversity. In India, the big cats present are the Bengal tiger, Indian leopard, Asiatic lion, clouded leopard, etc.

Role of Big cats in the environment

1. Big cats are **apex predators** that keep herbivore numbers under control by maintaining a balance in the food chain. The number of herbivores like deer and wild boars has been kept in check by the presence of tigers in the Indian forests.
2. They **help restrict the spread of illness** by maintaining healthy populations of prey. In **Yellowstone National Park**, the reintroduction of wolves has helped curb the spread of chronic wasting disease in elk populations.
3. Big cats can help **protect habitats** by keeping herbivores from eating too much grass and hurting plants. As a **natural deterrent**, they can also help prevent the spread of human settlements into wildlife areas helping in ecosystem conservation.
4. Big cats are frequently used as **flagship animals** in conservation efforts, attracting support for larger conservation programs. India"s **"Save the Tiger" campaign** has made more people aware of and interested in the country"s larger conservation efforts.
5. In addition, they are **essential for ecotourism,** which may give economic advantages to local populations and encourage conservation initiatives. **Observing lions in Tanzania** has become a popular tourist activity, contributing to the local economy and encouraging conservation initiatives.
6. Big cats can act as **markers of the health of an ecosystem** since their presence or absence might reflect environmental changes. The tiger population drop in India has been attributed to habitat loss and degradation.
7. They can also **help keep genetic diversity in their populations,** which is very important for the long-term success of conservation efforts. Cheetah populations in Africa have a lot of different kinds of genes, which help them stay alive when the environment changes.
8. By keeping the number of big cats stable, we **can also protect the places where other species live.** By taking care of jaguars in the Amazon, we can help protect many other species that live there and depend on the area"s rich biodiversity.

Conservation difficulties

1. Human activities such as **urbanization, agriculture, mining,** and infrastructure development have contributed to the loss and fragmentation of the natural habitat of big cats. This causes tensions between development and conservation.
2. **Illegal hunting and trade in wildlife:** People hunt and kill big cats for their highly-valued body parts, which are used in traditional medicine and high-end goods.
3. The killing of big cats due to **man-animal conflict.** In 2018, a tigress was killed in Maharashtra, India, after being labeled a "man-eater" due to many assaults on people.
4. **Lack of genetic diversity**: When large cat populations are small and spread out, this can lead to inbreeding and less genetic diversity, which makes the cats more susceptible to diseases and other dangers. Due to a lack of genetic diversity, the disease is more likely to spread among the Asiatic lions in Gujarat"s Gir Forest.
5. **Changes in temperature and rainfall patterns** can affect where and how much food is available for large felids. This can affect their ability to stay alive and reproduce. Due to the loss of habitat and food, the number of polar bears, a kind of large cat, decreased in 2019 as a result of the melting of Arctic sea ice.
6. **Lack of community engagement and awareness:** For long-term sustainability, the participation of local communities in conservation activities is important.
7. **Inadequate funds f**or conservation: For actions like habitat management, anti-poaching measures, and public awareness campaigns, conservation efforts require substantial financial resources.
8. **Ineffective law enforcement:** Wildlife protection laws must be effectively enforced to prevent unlawful activity and punish violators.
9. **Lack of international cooperation**: The conservation of migratory animals, such as snow leopards, requires international collaboration and coordination.

The government must take steps to ensure the protection of big cats, such as enacting stringent regulations and punishments, incentivizing conservation initiatives, encouraging community involvement, and establishing transboundary collaborations to adopt techniques of sustainable development. One example is the recent decision to form a big cat alliance. Several such dedicated efforts are needed to save the ecosystem and ensure a better future.

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Explain the formation of the polar vortex. Why is Polar vortex shifting southward?. Examine the implications of such an increased frequency of shift in Asia.

A polar vortex refers to an expanse of cold air that generally circles the Arctic region but occasionally shifts south from the North Pole. It is held in place by the Earth's rotation and temperature differences between the Arctic and mid-latitudes.
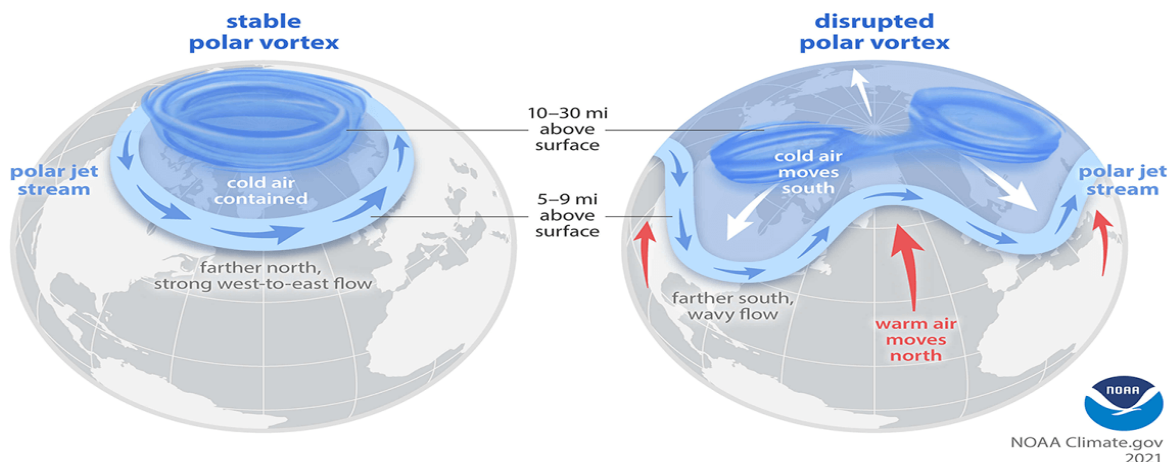
In the Northern Hemisphere, it tends to be much farther north than the jet stream, a strong river of wind that separates Arctic air to the north and much warmer air to the south. While the jet stream is present year-round, the polar vortex only occurs in winter. The polar vortex usually does not have much impact on weather beyond the poles, but occasionally the polar vortex becomes disrupted: when the jet stream moves south, cold air from the polar vortex can plunge farther south as well.

Understanding the polar vortex

The Arctic polar vortex is a strong band of winds in the stratosphere, surrounding the North Pole 10–30 miles above the surface.

The polar vortex is far above and typically does not interact with the polar jet stream, the flow of winds in the troposphere 5–9 miles above the surface. But when the polar vortex is especially strong and stable, the jet stream stays farther north and has fewer "kinks." This keeps cold air contained over the Arctic and the mid-latitudes warmer than usual.

Every other year or so, the Arctic polar vortex dramatically weakens. The vortex can be pushed off the pole or split into two. Sometimes the polar jet stream mirrors this stratospheric upheaval, becoming weaker or wavy. At the surface, cold air is pushed southward to the mid-latitudes, and warm air is drawn up into the Arctic.

stable polar vortex

polar jet stream

cold air contained

farther north, strong west-to-east flow

10–30 mi above surface

5–9 mi above surface

disrupted polar vortex

cold air moves south

polar jet stream

farther south, wavy flow

warm air moves north

NOAA Climate.gov 2021

This shift happens naturally but now is expected to increase due to climate change:

1. When variations in temperatures grow between arctic and mid-latitudes, the polar vortex can shift south. This is expected to increase as temperatures are turning erratic.
2. In long term, the **weakening of the polar jet stream** is expected to lead to this shift: warming of the Earth has led to the loss of Arctic sea ice, transforming a highly reflective icy surface to a dark absorptive surface. It is **warming higher latitudes** and reducing the temperature difference between the warmer mid-latitude and polar regions. This **weakens and destabilizes the polar jet stream,** causing it to dip into lower latitudes, bringing polar air farther south.

However, there is still a lack of uncertainty about the exact impact of climate change on the intensity and severity of these changes.

A polar vortex this year in Asia has led to extreme winters. Thus such a shift can substantially impact Asia:

1. **Human impacts**. Hundreds of millions of people across East Asia have suffered from the cold temperatures, with cold wave conditions in many states of India in mid-January.
2. These effects are **aggravated by other conditions such as droughts**. Evidence came up suggesting that recent droughts in Asia have made the region more susceptible to temperature extremes with more than 150 people dying due to cold in Afghanistan in the last twenty days.
3. Such cold conditions **cause material loss** also for example delayed flights, damage to buildings, affect water supply lines, etc.
4. **Damage to crops** has the potential to impact agricultural supplies and **food security causing hunger to rise**.
5. Increased extremes such as high cold and high heat waves have the potential to **impact vulnerable sections** more such as those who cannot afford heating and cooling appliances, increasing **mortalities and morbidities. It can impact people's health and productivity.**

There is a need for more research on these phenomena and how global warming and climate change are about to impact their geographical spread, intensity, etc. This would lead to better climate adaptation strategies, particularly for the vulnerable sections of the global south. Such impacts should further be brought into global debates at the Conference of Parties to bring urgency for the shift towards better climate cooperation among all.

Discuss the Historical Underpinnings that influenced the evolution of Indian Constitution.

Historical Underpinnings of the Indian Constitution:

- The Indian Constitution''s historical underpinnings can be traced back to various sources, including indigenous traditions, colonial experiences, and Western political thought.
- **Indigenous Traditions:**
  - The Constitution draws upon India''s ancient and medieval political and social traditions. Ancient Indian texts such as the **Vedas, Upanishads, and Dharmashastras** provided insights into the nature of governance, rights, and duties.
    - The **Buddhist and Jain teachings on non-violence, tolerance, and equality** also influenced the Constitution''s framing.
- Similarly, the medieval Bhakti movement''s emphasis on individual liberty and spiritual equality also found reflection in the Constitution.
  - **Colonial Experiences:**
    - The British colonial rule in India had a profound impact on the Constitution''s framing. The Indian National Congress and other political movements that emerged during the colonial period drew heavily on **Western ideas of liberty, democracy, and constitutionalism.**
- The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919 and the Government of India Act of 1935 laid the groundwork for the Constitution''s eventual drafting.
  - **Western Political Thought:**
    - The Constitution also reflects the influence of Western political thought, particularly the ideas of liberal democracy and the separation of powers.
      - The framers of the Indian Constitution were **inspired by the American and French Constitutions and the British parliamentary system.**
- The Constitution also incorporates **elements of socialist and Gandhian thought,** such as the idea of social and economic justice and the emphasis on non-violence.
- **Influence on the Evolution of the Indian Constitution:**
  - The historical underpinnings of the Indian Constitution have had a significant impact on its evolution, from the initial drafting to subsequent amendments.
- **Drafting of the Constitution:**
  - The Constituent Assembly, tasked with drafting the Constitution, was deeply influenced by India''s diverse historical and social experiences.
    - The Assembly''s members, drawn from various regions and communities, brought their unique perspectives and traditions to the table.

- The **debates and discussions** during the drafting process reflected the **influence of India''s indigenous traditions, colonial experiences, and Western political thought.**
    - **Incorporation of Fundamental Rights:**
        - The Constitution''s fundamental rights reflect India''s ancient and medieval traditions of individual liberty and social justice.
            - **The right to life, liberty, and equality before the law draw on India''s Dharmashastras** and the Bhakti movement''s emphasis on spiritual equality.
- The inclusion of the right to freedom of religion and cultural and educational rights **reflects India''s diverse social fabric.**
    - **Amendments to the Constitution:**
        - The Indian Constitution''s evolution through **amendments reflects the changing political and social landscape of the country.**
            - The inclusion of **Directive Principles of State Policy** in the Constitution''s preamble, inspired by **Gandhian and socialist thought,** was a significant amendment that reflected India''s post-independence aspirations.
- Similarly, the **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments** of 1992 that **empowered local governance reflect India''s commitment to grassroots democracy.**
    - **Some of the landmark judgments by the Supreme Court that have influenced the evolution of the Indian Constitution include:**
        - The **Kesavananda Bharati case (1973),** which established the principle of the **basic structure of the Constitution**, means that **certain core features of the Constitution cannot be amended.**
- **The Minerva Mills case (1980),** which upheld the principle of **judicial review** and struck down certain provisions of the 42nd Amendment.

The historical underpinnings of the Indian Constitution reflect India''s diverse social and political experiences. The Constitution draws on India''s indigenous traditions, colonial experiences, and Western political thought, and has evolved through amendments to reflect changing aspirations and challenges. Despite this the Constitution remains a living document, reflecting India''s democratic and pluralistic ethos.

What is a deepfake technology?. Examine the need to regulate Deepfakes.

- **Deepfakes are digital media** – video, audio, and images **edited and manipulated using Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to inflict harm on individuals and institutions.
- **AI-Generated Synthetic media or deepfakes** have clear **benefits** in certain areas, such as accessibility, education, film production, criminal forensics, and artistic expression.
- However, it can be **exploited** (hyper-realistic digital falsification) **to damage the reputation**, fabricate evidence, defraud the public, and undermine trust in democratic institutions with **fewer resources** (cloud computing, AI algorithms and abundant data).

Issues with Deepfakes

- **Building mistrust:**
    - Since they are compelling, deepfake videos can be used to **spread misinformation and propaganda**.
    - They seriously compromise the public's ability to distinguish between fact and fiction.
- **Wrongful depiction:**
    - There has been a history of using deepfakes to depict someone in a compromising and embarrassing situation.
        - For instance, there is no dearth of deepfake pornographic material of celebrities. Such photos and videos do not only amount to an invasion of privacy of the people reportedly in those videos, but also to harassment.
    - As technology advances, making such videos will become much easier.
- **Financial fraud:**
    - Deepfakes have been used for financial fraud.
        - In the recent example, scammers used AI-powered software to trick the CEO of a U.K. energy company over the phone into believing he was speaking with the head of the German parent company. As a result, the CEO transferred a large sum of money — €2,20,000 — to what he thought was a supplier.
        - The audio of the deepfake effectively mimicked the voice of the CEO's boss, including his German accent.

Threats to National Security

- **Influencing elections:**
    - Deepfakes can be used to influence elections.
        - Recently, Taiwan's cabinet approved amendments to election laws to punish the sharing of deepfake videos or images.

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- Taiwan is becoming increasingly concerned that China is spreading false information to influence public opinion and manipulate election outcomes, and this concern has led to these amendments.
- This could also happen in India's elections too.
- **Espionage:**
    - Deepfakes can also be used to carry out espionage activities.
    - Doctored videos can be used to blackmail government and defence officials into divulging state secrets.
- **Production of hateful material:**
    - In India, deepfakes could be used to produce inflammatory material, such as videos purporting to show the armed forces or the police committing 'crimes' in areas with conflict.
    - These deepfakes could be used to radicalise populations, recruit terrorists, or incite violence.

Legal protection available in India

- **IPC & IT Act:**
    - Currently, very few provisions under the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)** and the **Information Technology Act, 2000** can be potentially invoked to deal with the malicious use of deepfakes.
        - Section 500 of the IPC provides punishment for defamation.
        - Sections 67 and 67A of the Information Technology Act punish sexually explicit material in explicit form.
- **RPI:**
    - **The Representation of the People Act, 1951**, includes provisions prohibiting the creation or distribution of false or misleading information about candidates or political parties during an election period.
- **ECI Guidelines:**
    - The Election Commission of India has set rules that require registered political parties and candidates to get pre-approval for all political advertisements on electronic media, including TV and social media sites, to help ensure their accuracy and fairness.

Challenges

- **Lack of regulatory framework for AI:**
    - There is often a lag between new technologies and the enactment of laws to address the issues and challenges they create.
    - In India, the legal framework related to AI is insufficient to adequately address the various issues that have arisen due to AI algorithms.

- - The lack of proper regulations creates avenues for individuals, firms and even non-state actors to misuse AI.
  - **Policy vacuums on deepfakes:**
    - The legal ambiguity, coupled with a lack of accountability and oversight, is a potent mix for a disaster.
    - Policy vacuums on deepfakes are a perfect archetype of this situation.
  - **Challenging authenticity:**
    - As the technology matures further, deepfakes could enable individuals to deny the authenticity of genuine content, particularly if it shows them engaging in inappropriate or criminal behaviour, by claiming that it is a deepfake.

Solutions

- **Media literacy** for consumers is the most effective tool to combat disinformation and deep fakes.
- **Meaningful regulations** with a collaborative discussion with the technology industry, civil society and policymakers to disincentivise the creation and distribution of malicious deepfakes.
- **Easy-to-use and accessible technology solutions** to detect deepfakes, authenticate media, and amplify authoritative sources.
- **Social media platforms are taking cognizance** of the deepfake issue, and almost all of them have some policy or acceptable terms of use for deepfakes.

Road Ahead

- The Union government should introduce separate legislation regulating the nefarious use of deepfakes and the broader subject of AI.
- Legislation should not hamper innovation in AI, but it should recognise that deepfake technology may be used in the commission of criminal acts and should provide provisions to address the use of deepfakes in these cases.
  - The proposed Digital India Bill can also address this issue.
- Tech firms are also working on detection systems that aim to flag up fakes whenever they appear.

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Internationalization of rupee has risks but they are inevitable. Comment

Internationalisation of rupee means adopting full capital account convertibility. Capital account tracks movement of capital between two countries via investments and loans. A fully convertible capital account means that there is no restriction on the amount of rupees you can convert into foreign currency to buy any asset overseas. Similarly, there are no restraints on overseas investors to bring in dollars or acquire assets in India. While greater internationalisation of the rupee can lower transaction costs of cross-border trade and investment operations by mitigating exchange rate risk, that it can also complicate the conduct of monetary policy.

Merits of the Internationalization of Rupee

- **Lowering of Transaction Costs**:
    - The internationalization of the Rupee can**reduce the need for currency conversion, thereby lowering transaction costs for businesses** and individuals conducting international trade.
    - This can make it **more attractive for foreign investors to do business in India**and make India"s exports more competitive in global markets.
- **Greater Degree of Price Transparency:**
    - When the Rupee is widely used in international transactions, it can**lead to a greater degree of price transparency**. This can **enable Indian businesses to better understand global market conditions** and adjust their pricing strategies accordingly.
- **Quick Settlement Time:**
    - The internationalization of the Rupee can **facilitate faster and more efficient settlement times**for international transactions. This can benefit Indian businesses by reducing the time and costs associated with cross-border payments.
- **Promoting International Trade:**
    - An internationalized Rupee can **promote international trade by making it easier and cheaper for Indian businesses to transact with their global counterparts.**This can lead to increased exports and economic growth for the country.
- **Reduction in Hedging Expenses:**
    - As the Rupee becomes more widely accepted and used in international transactions, the **need for hedging against currency fluctuations may reduce.**This can lead to cost savings for businesses and investors.
- **Reduced Cost of Holding Foreign Reserve by the RBI:**
    - An internationalized Rupee can reduce the**cost of holding foreign reserve by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. When the Rupee is widely used and accepted in international transactions, the RBI may not need to hold as much foreign currency to conduct its operations, thereby reducing costs.

Challenges with the Internationalization of Rupee

- **Capital Controls:**
    - India still has **capital controls in place that limit the ability of foreigners to invest**and trade in Indian markets. These restrictions make it difficult for the INR to be used widely as an international currency.
- **Exchange Rate Volatility:**
    - The INR has a**history of volatility,** which makes it unattractive for use as an international currency. Currency exchange rate stability is a key requirement for a currency to be used as a global reserve currency.
- **Financial Market Development:**
    - The **development of deep and liquid financial markets is a prerequisite for the Internationalization of a currency.**The Indian financial market is still in the process of developing, and it needs to become more integrated with global financial markets.
- **Regulatory Environment:**
    - The regulatory environment in India**needs to be conducive to the use of the INR as an international currency.** This **requires the government to implement policies that support the growth** of the financial sector, improve market transparency and reduce red tape.
- **Lack of Internationalization Efforts:**
    - India**needs to take more active steps to promote the use of the INR** as an international currency. This **includes establishing offshore INR trading centers**, entering into currency swap agreements with other countries, and promoting the use of the INR in trade settlements.
- **Low Inflation:**
    - **Inflation**rate is an **important consideration when it comes to the Internationalization of a currency.** The Reserve Bank of India has been successful in keeping inflation under control, but low inflation rates can make a currency less attractive to foreign investors.
- **Geopolitical Factors:**
    - Geopolitical factors such as **political instability, wars, and sanctions can have a significant impact on the Internationalization of a currency.**India needs to have stable relations with other countries and avoid getting caught in geopolitical conflicts that could impact the use of the INR as an international currency.

Looking forward

- **Encourage Cross-Border Trade in Indian Rupee:**

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- Government should**encourage cross-border trade with other countries,** especially neighboring countries like Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh, in Indian Rupee instead of other currencies.
- This will**increase the demand for the Indian Rupee in these countries,** thereby promoting its Internationalization.

- **Promote Financial Market Development:**
    - India could **promote the development of its financial markets,**especially the bond market, to attract foreign investors.
    - This will **increase the demand for Indian Rupee-denominated bonds**and promote its use in international transactions.

- **Liberalize Capital Account Transactions:**
    - Government should **further liberalize capital account transactions to attract foreign investment,**which will increase the demand for the Indian Rupee in international transactions.

- **Expand the Use of the Indian Rupee in International Transactions:**
    - Government should**encourage its trading partners to use the Indian Rupee in international transactions** by signing bilateral currency swap agreements. It could also explore the possibility of creating an Indian Rupee-based trading bloc with its neighboring countries.

- **Strengthen the Indian Economy:**
    - A strong and stable Indian economy will increase the confidence of foreign investors in the Indian Rupee and promote its Internationalization.

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a concept that refers to the ability of machines to accomplish tasks that historically required human intelligence.

It includes various technologies such as machine learning, pattern recognition, big data, neural networks, and self-algorithms.

Role Artificial Intelligence can play in Legislation

1. **Enhance Legislative Procedures:**
   - AI tools can **assist parliamentarians in preparing responses for legislators, enhancing research quality, obtaining information about any Bill,** preparing briefs, providing information on particular House rules, legislative drafting, amendments, interventions, etc. This can help to streamline legislative processes and make them more efficient.
     - The House of Representatives in the United States has **introduced an AI tool to automate the process of analysing differences between Bills,** amendments and current laws.

2. **Research Quality:**
   - AI can assist in **conducting thorough research by analyzing large volumes of data, identifying patterns and trends, and presenting the results** in a comprehensive manner. This **can help lawmakers to make informed decisions** based on reliable data and evidence.

3. **Assist in Decision-Making:**
   - AI can provide **decision-making support to lawmakers by analyzing various factors and making predictions** about the potential outcomes of different policy options. This can help to improve the accuracy of decision-making and minimize the risk of unintended consequences.

4. **Analysing Citizens' Grievances:**
   - Compared to western democratic nations, in India, **parliamentarians manage constituencies with a huge population.**
   - AI can **analyse citizens' grievances and social media responses,** and flag issues and priorities that need immediate attention.
   - It can also assist parliamentarians in seeking citizen inputs for public consultation of laws and preparing a manifesto.

5. **Simulate the Potential Effects of Laws:**
   - The **use of AI in legislative procedures can help in modelling various datasets** such as the **Census**, data on household consumption, taxpayers, beneficiaries from various schemes, and public infrastructure to uncover potential outcomes of a policy.
   - It can also **help in flagging laws that are outdated in the present circumstances** and which require amendment.

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- For example, during the **Covid-19 pandemic**, it became evident that "the**Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897**" failed to address the situation adequately, highlighting the need to revisit and update outdated laws.
- Several provisions in the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)**are also controversial and redundant, such as **Article 309 (attempted suicide),**which continues to be a criminal offence.
- AI can help identify such outdated laws and streamline the legislative process by focusing on more relevant laws and policies.
  - There are several pieces of criminal legislation that were enacted more than 100 years ago that are of hardly any use today, such as the **Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, the Public Gambling Act, 1867, and the Prisons Act, 1894.**

Concerns with the use AI in Legislative Procedures

1. **Lack of Transparency:**
   - AI models **can be highly complex, and it may be difficult to understand how they are making decisions.**This lack of transparency could undermine the democratic process if legislators and the public are unable to understand the reasoning behind legislative decisions.
2. **Bias:**
   - AI models are**only as objective as the data they are trained on.**If the data used to train an AI model is biased, the model may replicate and even amplify that bias in its decisions.
     - This could lead to discriminatory outcomes, such as laws that disproportionately impact certain groups.
3. **Accountability:**
   - If AI is used in legislative decision-making,**it may be difficult to hold anyone accountable for the outcomes.**This could pose a challenge to the democratic process, as accountability is a critical component of representative governance.
4. **Cybersecurity:**
   - Legislative procedures often**involve sensitive and confidential information.**If AI systems used in these procedures are not properly secured, they could be vulnerable to cyberattacks that could compromise this information.
5. **Dependence:**
   - Overreliance on AI in legislative procedures could reduce the human element in decision-making and could lead to a loss of expertise and judgment that comes from human interaction and debate.

Looking Forward

1. **Codify Laws and Regulations:**
   - The government**should continue its efforts to codify laws and regulations in a comprehensive and accessible manner.**This will provide a solid foundation for AI-based solutions to work with.

2. **Develop a Unified Platform:**
   - A unified platform **should be developed that provides a complete view of all laws, regulations, and notifications**. This platform should be accessible to all stakeholders, including citizens, businesses, and government officials.

3. **Encourage Collaboration:**
   - AI-based **solutions for legislation should be developed through collaboration between various stakeholders,**including government agencies, legal experts, technology companies, and civil society organizations.

4. **Ensure Transparency and Accountability:**
   - AI-based solutions **should be designed to be transparent, explainable, and accountable.**Citizens should be able to understand how the AI arrived at a particular decision or recommendation.

5. **Focus on Citizen-Centric Solutions:**
   - AI-based **solutions should be designed to meet the needs of citizens.**The solutions should be user-friendly and accessible to all, including those with disabilities or limited digital literacy.

6. **Making Laws Machine-Consumable:**
   - There is a need to **make laws machine-consumable with a central law engine**, which can be a single source of truth for all acts, subordinate pieces of legislation, gazettes, compliances, and regulations.
   - **For Example:**
     - AI can tell us if an **entrepreneur wants to open a manufacturing unit in Maharashtra**and what acts and compliances are applicable.
     - If a citizen wants to check the eligibility for welfare schemes, AI can recommend which schemes are eligible, based on details provided by citizens.

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Cooperatives are model for inclusive growth. Explain. Identify the major roadblocks before Cooperatives in India.

- Cooperatives operate on the principle of democratic control and are owned and managed by their members, who share the benefits and risks of their activities.
- The Government of India took a major decision in July 2021 to establish new ministry of cooperation. Till then, area of co-operation at Union level was under the ministry of agriculture and farmers' welfare. This decision seems to be the result of realisation that cooperation is a critical institution for a very large section of the Indian society covering small farmers, small scale businesses, small and micro enterprises, and informal sector. These segments dominate India and are not quite amenable to public or corporate governance model. The move also augurs well with the goal of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas.
- The Budget 2023-24 strengthens the cooperatives to take forward the agenda for inclusive growth.

The potential of cooperatives in promoting inclusive growth

1. *Employment Generation*: Cooperatives can create employment opportunities in areas where traditional employment opportunities are limited. Cooperatives provide jobs for their members and their families, and often employ people from disadvantaged communities, women, and youth.
2. *Poverty Reduction*: Cooperatives can contribute to poverty reduction by providing members with access to credit, training, and other resources that enable them to start or expand their own businesses. Cooperatives can also provide affordable goods and services to their members, such as healthcare, housing, and education.
3. *Social Welfare*: Cooperatives promote social welfare by providing members with a sense of community and belonging. Members work together to achieve common goals and share the benefits of their collective efforts. Cooperatives also promote social responsibility by supporting community development projects and by practicing ethical and sustainable business practices.
4. *Financial Inclusion*: Cooperatives can provide financial services to people who are excluded from the formal banking system. Cooperatives offer a range of financial services, including savings, loans, and insurance, that enable members to meet their financial needs and build assets over time.
5. *Empowerment*: Cooperatives empower members by giving them a voice in decision-making and by promoting democratic control. Members have equal voting rights and participate in the management of the cooperative, which enhances their leadership skills and promotes civic engagement.

Challenges facing cooperative system in India

1. *Weak regulatory framework*: The regulatory framework for cooperatives in India is weak and outdated. This makes it difficult to monitor and enforce compliance with regulations, and leaves room for fraud and mismanagement.
2. *Lack of transparency*: Many cooperatives in India suffer from a lack of transparency in their operations and management. This makes it difficult for members to hold their leaders accountable and can lead to corruption and abuse of power.
3. *Limited access to capital*: Cooperatives often struggle to raise capital due to limited access to financial institutions and a lack of collateral. This makes it difficult for them to invest in new projects and expand their operations.
4. *Political interference*: Many cooperatives in India are influenced by political parties, which can undermine their autonomy and lead to corruption.
5. *Inadequate training and education*: Many members and leaders of cooperatives lack the necessary training and education to manage their organizations effectively. This can lead to mismanagement and a lack of accountability.

Addressing these challenges will require significant reforms in the legal and regulatory framework for cooperatives, as well as efforts to improve transparency and accountability. Additionally, providing better access to capital and training and education for cooperative members and leaders can help to promote their success and sustainability.

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Is the "Special relationship" between India and Bhutan sustainable?. Comment.

- The basic framework of India-Bhutan bilateral relations was the **Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed in 1949** between the two countries.
    - It called for **peace** between the two nations and **non-interference** in each other's internal affairs.
    - The Treaty was **revised in 2007.**
    - **However, Bhutan agreed to let India guide its foreign policy** and both nations would consult each other closely on foreign and defence affairs.
- **The diplomatic relations were established in 1968** with the establishment of a **special office of India in Thimphu.**
- There are a number of **institutional and diplomatic mechanisms** between India and Bhutan in areas such as security, **border management, trade, transit, economic, hydro-power, development cooperation, water resources** etc.

Strategic Importance of Bhutan

- **Bhutan shares its border with four Indian states**: Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Sikkim with a length of 699 km and serves as a buffer between India and China.
- **Bhutan is important to India as a buffer state** as it acts as a defence against China by protecting the **chicken neck corridor.**
    - **The Siliguri Corridor, or Chicken's Neck**, is a narrow stretch of land of about 22 kilometres.
    - **It is located in the Indian state of West Benga**l, which connects India's north-eastern states to the rest of India, with the countries of **Nepal and Bangladesh** lying on either side of the corridor.
- **The Doklam stand-off** re-established the strategic significance of Bhutan for India.

What worries India?

- **China"s Growing Influence:** China"s**increasing presence in Bhutan, particularly along the disputed border between Bhutan and China,** has raised concerns in India. India has been Bhutan"s closest ally and has played a key role in protecting Bhutan"s sovereignty and security. However, China"s growing economic and military influence in the region poses a challenge to India"s strategic interests in Bhutan.

Recent Developments in China Bhutan Relations Concerning India

- **Border Disputes:**

- Bhutan and China have**had a long-standing border dispute, with China claiming a large part of Bhutanese territory** in the western region.
- This area is **also strategically important as it is close to India"s Siliguri Corridor**, which connects mainland India to its northeastern states.
- If China were to make any advances in this region, it could potentially threaten India"s security.
    - **China disputes the following territories with Bhutan:**In the north, Pasamlung and Jakarlung valleys, both of which are culturally vital for Bhutan and in the west, Doklam, Dramana, and Shakhatoe, Yak Chu and Charithang Chu, and Sinchulungpa and Langmarpo valleys.
    - The Doklam trijunction is crucial for India as it lies precariously close to the Siliguri Corridor.
    - Recently, **China has also claimed the <u>Sakteng sanctuary</u>**, which is on Bhutan's east and does not border China.
- **China"s Assertiveness:**
    - China has **become increasingly assertive in its foreign policy,**particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.
    - This has led to tensions with several countries, including India.
    - If China were to use its increasing influence in Bhutan to further its strategic goals, it could potentially pose a challenge to India"s regional security.

<u>Looking ahead</u>

Economic Cooperation:

- India can **help Bhutan to boost its economy by investing in infrastructure development,**tourism, and other sectors. This will not only help Bhutan to become self-reliant but also create employment opportunities for its people.
- **Recent decision to set up the first Integrated Check Post (ICP) along the border near Jaigaon and Phuntsholing,**the busiest trading point between the countries will help in boosting trade between the two countries.
- The decision to expedite the**operationalisation of the third international internet gateway** for Bhutan is also a great step in the direction.

Cultural Exchange:

- India and Bhutan can**promote cultural exchange programs to foster greater understanding** and appreciation of each other"s culture, art, music, and literature.
- A **visa-free movement of peoples from both countries** can strengthen sub-regional cooperation.

Strategic Cooperation:

- India and Bhutan can **strengthen their strategic cooperation to address shared security concerns.** They can work together to combat terrorism, drug trafficking, and other transnational crimes.

Renewable Energy:

- Bhutan has **enormous potential for generating hydropower,**and India can help Bhutan to harness its hydropower resources by investing in renewable energy projects.

Education and Skill Development:

- India can **help Bhutan in the areas of education and skill development**by providing scholarships to Bhutanese students and training programs to enhance the skills of Bhutanese professionals.
- According to **All India Surveys of Higher Education (AISHE)**, the **number of Bhutanese students receiving tertiary education in India declined from 2,468 in 2012-13 to 1,827 in 2020-21**, accounting for just 3.8% of all international students from 7% a decade ago.

- Insurgency is a violent insurrection against a constituted authority, often led by a non-state actor or a disenfranchised group seeking political or socio-economic change.
- In northeast India, the insurgency has been characterized by autonomy aspirations, identity-based conflicts, and territory disputes. Other causes of the insurgency include the exploitation of natural resources and perceived central government apathy. There have been various insurgency-related events, such as the Nellie Massacre in Assam in 1983, the signing of the Assam Accord in 1985, and ongoing clashes in Manipur between groups like the United National Liberation Front and the People"s Liberation Army.

Cause of Insurgency

Insurgency is essentially rebellion against the political organisation when the ethnic communities feel that they are not properly represented. There is a sense that their interests have been neglected, this gave rise to violent moments.

There are over a hundred of ethnic groups in the Northeast. It is populated with people who have very strong ethnicity. There is a strong sense of identity in each of these different communities.

There have been several groups which have distinct identity in the region emphasizing their uniqueness. They want to retain this uniqueness in their political and social and orientations as well. It is due to this there are so many divisive forces at play in this reason which gave rise to insurgency.

- Most of the states except Plains of Assam were deliberately excluded from mainstream government administration of Britishers and categorised as **excluded areas** in Government of India Act 1935 and the ethnic people were called **backward tribes.**
- British deliberately made them believe that they were a British Crown Colony and not part of any province in India.
  - For example **Naga Hills** were governed by Assam province but later on they were excluded and many of the parts of the administration were directly governed by the Chief Commissioner.
- A sentiment was always propagated that more or less they are independent so after independence the groups nursed the ambition of becoming an independent state. Nagaland National Council was first to assert their Independence from India for nationhood.

Steps that were taken by the Indian government to combat insurgency:

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1. **Developmental Initiatives**: Indian government has initiated many developmental initiatives. For instance, the **Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for the North East (SARDP-NE)** was undertaken to strengthen the region"s connectivity.
2. The Indian Army has launched a number of **successful military operations** against insurgent organizations in the Northeast, including **2019"s Operation All Clear,** which targeted the National Democratic Front of Boroland-Saoraigwa (NDFB-S) faction in Assam.
3. Government participation in **peace discussions with a number of rebel groups**, and signing of a number of peace accords. The most significant of them was the signing of the **Bodo Peace Accord in 2020,** which stopped decades of conflict in Bodo-dominated districts of Assam.
4. Improvement in government **information-collecting skills in the Northeast** resulted in a number of successful operations against rebel organizations. For instance, the **2015 assassination of ULFA"s senior commander** Paresh Baruah in Bhutan was the consequence of enhanced intelligence.
5. The government has also sought **foreign support** in order to combat insurgency in the Northeast. The 2015 extradition of ULFA leader Anup Chetia from Bangladesh, for example, was the outcome of diplomatic efforts by India.

Despite several efforts to eliminate it, insurgency persists for the following reasons:

1. **Ethnolinguistic Diversity:** The Northeast area is defined by its various people and nationalities. This has led to identity-based disputes and the formation of rebel organizations.
2. Political marginalization has led to discontent and sympathy for insurgent organizations among the people of Northeast India, who have long felt ignored and sidelined by the central government therefore resolution becomes difficult.
3. Territory Conflicts and **Cross-Border Movements of Insurgent Groups:** Northeast has boundaries with numerous nations, resulting in territorial disputes and cross-border insurgent activity. The National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) has connections to Myanmar and has been active in the area.
4. **Arms Smuggling:** Insurgent organizations in the Northeast have access to sophisticated weaponry obtained from neighbouring countries through arms smuggling. In 2013, the arrest of weapons dealer Abdul Karim Tunda revealed the scope of gun smuggling in the area.
5. **Lack of Socio-economic Development** in comparison to other parts of the country in terms of socio-economic development. This has led to **high rates of unemployment and poverty,** which help the insurgency spread.

Suggestions

- **Enhancing Connectivity:**Comprehensive geographical connectivity is key to the development of NorthEast states. For this transit arrangement to connect to Indian mainland through Bangladesh and **India–Myanmar–Thailand** Trilateral highway should be completed.

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    - This highway is expected to boost trade and commerce in the ASEAN–India Free Trade Area, as well as with the rest of Southeast Asia.

- **Continuing vigilance:**India should not lower its guard thinking insurgency has ended it should continue to be vigilant. There have been instances where violent acts have been committed after a very long gap by new formed groups.

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    - The centre and the state government should identify all the groups small and big and deal with them so that the insurgency doesn"t sprung up again.

- **Addressing people"s aspirations:**The conflict in NorthEast is the physical manifestation of the aspiration of people. Thus there is a need to address the aspirations of the people by establishing continuous dialogues with them.

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    - The success of peace agreements should be evaluated more on socio-economic outcomes than in terms of military outcome.

- **Ending corrupt nexus:**Identifying stakeholders and addressing their issues is needed to permanently resolve the issues. Election results in NorthEast have often been determined by which groups the political parties pay their allegiance to.

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    - Thus the vicious cycle of corruption involving the state legislature and these underground groups should be ended.

- **Forward looking policy:**A structured counterinsurgency policy is needed in which all the factors should be considered by the government by consulting all the stakeholders to comprehensively deal with such insurgency in future.

- **Greater integration:**A sense of belongingness should be encouraged among the local population and a sense of pride should be inculcated in them for their contributions made to India such as the Kohima war during Indian freedom struggle.

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Thus, there is a need for various solutions to address insurgency in northeast India, including addressing the root causes of the conflict, engaging in dialogue, providing economic and educational opportunities, ensuring effective governance, and addressing ethnic and cultural differences. Ensuring peace in this manner would further lead to an inclusive and strengthened India.

- A Parliamentary Committee is a panel of MPs that is **appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker/Chairman.**
- The committee works under the**direction of the Speaker/chairman** and it presents its report to the House or to the Speaker/chairman.
- Parliamentary Committees have their origins in the British Parliament.
- They draw their authority from**Article 105 and Article 118.**
  - Article 105 deals with the privileges of MPs.
  - Article 118 gives Parliament authority to make rules to regulate its procedure and conduct of business.

Significance of Parliamentary Committees

- **Provides Legislative Expertise:**
  - Most MPs are not subject matter experts on the topics being discussed — they are generalists who understand the pulse of the people but rely on advice from experts and stakeholders before making decisions.
- **Parliamentary committees are meant to help MPs seek expertise**and give them time to think about issues in detail.
- **Acting as a Mini-Parliament:**
  - These committees act as a mini-parliament, as they have **MPs representing different parties are elected into them**through a system of the single transferable vote, in roughly the same proportion as their strength in Parliament.
- **Instrument for Detailed Scrutiny:**
  - When bills are referred to these committees,**they are examined closely and inputs are sought from various external stakeholders,** including the public.
- **Provides a Check on the Government:**
  - Although committee recommendations are**not binding on the government, their reports create a public record of the consultations** that took place and put pressure on the government to reconsider its stand on debatable provisions.
  - By virtue of being closed-door and away from the public eye, discussions in committee meetings are also more collaborative, with MPs feeling less pressured to posture for media galleries.

Challenges faced by parliamentary committees

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1. **Poor referral rate**: As per data from **PRS** in the **17th Lok Sabha, only 14 Bills** have been referred for further examination so far. Similarly around 25% of the Bills introduced were referred to committees in the 16th Lok Sabha, as compared to 71% and 60% in the 15th and 14th Lok Sabha respectively.
2. **Recommendatory nature:** Parliamentary committees in India **do not have adequate powers** to enforce their recommendations. The committees can only make recommendations to the parliament, and it is up to the government to act upon them.
3. **Shortage of time and resources t**o undertake comprehensive studies. As a result, committees may not be able to conduct an in-depth analysis of issues, and their recommendations may not be based on solid evidence.
4. **Lack of expertise**: Parliamentary committees in India are comprised of MPs who may not have the required expertise to examine technical and specialized issues.
5. **Partisan allegations**: The composition of parliamentary committees reflects the political representation of the parliament, which means that members may approach issues from **a partisan perspective.**

Tackling these challenges

1. **Adopting USA Model:** In the US, committees play a crucial role in scrutinizing bills post-introduction, allowing changes to be made before the modified bill goes for voting.
2. **Establishing New Committees:** Given the increasing complexity in matters of economy and technological advancement there is a need for setting up new parliamentary committees. **For instance**, a Standing Committee on National Economy can provide analysis of the national economy with resources for advisory expertise, data gathering, and research facilities. A Standing Committee on Legislation can oversee and coordinate legislative planning.
3. **Compulsory Referral:** The Parliament could consider **compulsory referral,** for the Bills that are tabled on the floor, to the appropriate committees. Arming them with more powers will help them ensure accountability from the executive instead of making them toothless tigers.
4. **Pre-emptive scrutiny:** Standing Constitution Committee to scrutinise Constitutional Amendment Bills before they are introduced in Parliament.
5. **Greater Weightage to Public Account Committee:** The recommendations of the PAC should be accorded greater weight and they must be treated as the "conscience-keepers of the nation in financial matters."
6. **Periodic Review:** According to the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC), DRSCs (Department-Related Standing Committees) should be periodically reviewed so that the committees which have outlived their utility can be replaced with new ones.

Through their expertise and oversight, these committees help to strengthen the democratic spirit and promote transparency and accountability in the legislative process. Parliamentary committees continue to be empowered and supported so that they can carry out their responsibilities effectively and ensure that the laws passed to serve the best interests of the Indian democracy.

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Give an appraisal of agriculture subsidy regime in India.

An agricultural subsidy is an incentive in the form of monetary payments and other types of support given by the government to farmers, agribusinesses etc. to promote agricultural production, development, production, self-sufficiency etc.

Types of agricultural subsidies in India

1. **Input subsidies** incentivise inputs such as Fertiliser, power, and seed. Some incentivise inputs explicitly while in some cases it might be implicit.
2. **Output subsidies** are on a particular agricultural product such as by restrictive trade policy, inflated product prices in the market etc.
3. **Price subsidy** provides price support like Minimum Support Price (MSP) on wheat and rice.
4. **Infrastructural subsidy** on capital investment for example building of godowns and cold storages.
5. **Credit and export subsidies** such as loans through priority sector lending quota for farmers in India.

Major subsidies in India are fertiliser, power, credit, output, seed, and export subsidies. In 2021 Agri-subsidies were around 5 lakh crores as per NITI Aayog (including food and fertiliser subsidies).

Significance of agri-subsidy regime

■ Helped **ensure food security** by subsiding wheat and rice. **Production went up** from 50 million tonnes of food grains in the 1950s to more than 300 million tonnes presently.
    1. India no longer depends on imports for its food requirements, **saving crucial foreign exchange.**
■ Help farmers to reduce input costs and **increase profit margins.**
■ **Improvement in productivity of land** such as through fertiliser subsidies by greater adoption of fertilisers.
■ **Creation of capital assets through infrastructure subsidy** for example cold storage to reduce post-harvest losses of perishable agricultural produce.

Issues with agricultural subsidies

■ Most indirect subsidies on fertiliser, power and irrigation water contribute to the **degradation of natural resources** (by excessive use of subsidised resources) such as **soil salinity and stress on groundwater aquifers i**n Punjab due to free power.
■ **Distortion of cropping patterns** such as through Minimum Support Price due to open-ended wheat and rice procurement system. These have led to **cereal-centric, regionally biassed and input-intensive agricultural systems.**

- Pricing of fertilisers -Fixing urea price compared to nutrient based subsidy in other fertilisers has led to **high urea use distorting N:P:K ratio affecting soil adversely;** Now Di-Ammonium Phosphate's (DAP) prices are alleged to be indirectly fixed with fears of **DAP being second urea.**
    1. Less focus on micronutrients causes **an imbalance of soil nutrients and deterioration of soil quality and declining land productivity**. Also, the marginal productivity of soil in relation to the application of fertilisers is declining.
- Compromise of investment in **capital infrastructure** in agriculture. From 1976 to 2003- subsidies increased but public investment in agriculture declined.
- **Fiscal burden to states** for example through free power as per economic survey 2022. This also affects the state of electricity distribution companies.
- Indiscriminate subsidy use can **create inefficiencies s**ince they embed incentives for fraud, diversion and waste. These eventually become entrenched, accumulate and pose a threat to their sustainability.
- **Direct subsidy cash such** as transfers of PM-KISAN can be used in other priorities impacting **agricultural productivity.**

Decreasing bills on food and fertilisers and **investment in research**, **and efficiency in government expenditure** can increase farmers' incomes in the long run through more productive investment. Thus there is a need for better policy deliberations with all stakeholders to reduce negative impacts, particularly on small and marginal farmers to realise an **evergreen revolution** with sustainable agriculture in India.

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The road for the reforming UNSC is not easy. Discuss in detail the various dimensions related to it. Add a special note on India's role in this regard.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is considered the most powerful body of the United Nations. It has responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote.

Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions with five permanent members having veto powers for decisions to be taken by UNSC.

However, many nations are not satisfied with the present way of functioning highlighting the need for reforms in the UNSC:

- UNSC being made in the post-war era is considered **not relevant in its composition for changing times** such as changing balance of power with the relative shift in power among countries.
- **Skewed representation:** Europe with France and the United Kingdom in P5 is **overrepresented with Africa** not having a single P5 veto seat in UNSC.
- **Encroachment on state sovereignty through selective efforts**. Whereas efforts towards sanctions of powerful nations are vetoed by P5 or their allies**. UNSC was not able to penalise Russia even though it has violated the sovereignty of Ukraine**, it was not able to take action against China's belligerence and in tackling COVID.
- **Lack of recognition of efforts of Countries like Japan and India** towards reforms of UNSC. Reforms need to ensure better recognition of India's contributions as it is the highest troop contributor in peacekeeping operations.
- The **present global nature of problem**s like climate change, and nuclear proliferation need a **new holistic approach,** and reform of the UNSC will make it a relevant institution for tackling such problems.

Reasons for such reforms not being successful:

- Continuous resistance by P5 Nations to modify their current positions.
- **Resistance by neighbouring countries** of major contenders for permanent seats for example by Uniting for consensus **(coffee club)** claiming contenders like India and Brazil as regional hegemons.
- **The issue over veto to be regarded by new members** and change in institution and impacts due to veto power such as **Ezulwini consensus** of Africa asserting no reform to be without a veto.

India's approach to reforms of such multilateral organisations:

- At UNSC- India has **aligned with G4(**Germany, Brazil, Japan and India) nations to push for reforms such as support for each other's bids to become permanent members of the

UNSC, and for representation of African countries. India is also pushing it in different groups and meetings of the UN.

1. India at the **77th session of the UN General Assembly** called for a structural overhaul of global multilateral institutions incorporating institutional accountability and a wider representation of the developing countries.

- Demand for greater representation of the south in the **World Bank, International Monetary Fund etc**. as the finance minister remarked in 2021 while attending the annual meeting of the World Bank and IMF in Washington with the need for these institutions to be more transparent, represent and speak for countries which don''t get adequate representation.

- The **present G20 presidency is also being utilised by India** to take this agenda forward.

- **Focus on regional institutions** such as Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, also with free trade agreements on India's own terms such as with UAE, Australia etc.

Even though the probability of reforms of the UN and other multilateral organisations is slim, we should strive towards ensuring cooperation with the global south as well as interested stakeholders through the use of forums such as the Non-Alignment Movement to ensure our increased clout and soft power. With increased capacities, such reforms will be easy to push for.

Three powerful members of the UNSC namely Russia, China, and the U.S. are opposed to any major restructuring of the Council. The reform of the Security Council can only take place if two-thirds of UN member states vote in favour, along with an affirmative vote from all the permanent members, who enjoy the veto power. Effectively, even if India secures the support of two-thirds of UN members, who are present and voting, it would still need the five permanent members to not use the veto and thereby, prevent the adoption of the reform process.

Mention the major recommendations made by Kirit Parikh Committee. Examine the move to accept Kirit Parikh Committee recommendations.

The Kirit Parikh panel was set up this September to review the gas pricing formula for gas produced in the country with the aim to ensure a fair price even as global prices for gas remained high. The committee was tasked with suggesting a fair price to the end-consumer while ensuring a market-oriented, transparent and reliable pricing regime for India"s long-term vision for ensuring a gas-based economy.

The mandate is to suggest a regime that would help raise domestic production to help meet the goal of 15% of energy coming from gas by 2030.

Major recommendations

Fixed Ceiling price (till 2027)	· Implement a fixed pricing band for APM (Administrative Price Mechanism) gas from old fields · The old fields account for two-thirds of natural gas produced in India · Currently, government controls the price of Gas produced from old fields
By 2027	· Move to a purely market-determined natural gas pricing system by 2027
Linking the price	· Link the domestic gas price to 10% of the cost of imported crude oil
No-cut category (uninterrupted supply)	· Some of the sectors have been kept in the 'no-cut' category (meaning that supplies will remain uninterrupted in this category even in case of a decline in production)

	· E.g., The city gas and fertilizer sector will continue to get top priority in the allocation of APM gas.
Inclusion of gas in GST	· Include gas in GST with compensation for five years
Removal of caps on gas prices	· Remove caps on gas prices within three years.
Gradual exit from gas allocation business	· Government should gradually exit out of the gas allocation business.
No changes to the existing pricing formula for new fields and fields with difficult geology	· New and difficult fields enjoy pricing freedom to compensate for the greater risk and cost involved in these projects, but they have a pricing cap. · The report suggests that the upper cap should be removed from January 1, 2026. · E.g., for fields in the Deep Sea or in high-temperature, high-pressure zones.

Significance of the move

- ■ Good for domestic producers: It will benefit domestic producers of natural gas in India, as they will now be able to receive a higher price for their products.
- ■ Will incentivize domestic production and lead to an increase in domestic supply.
- ■ Will make the pricing of natural gas more transparent and efficient
- ■ This will help raise the share of gas in India's energy mix to 15% by 2030 from around 4% at present.

Way forward

- The administered pricing mechanism (APM): is still determined by the government on the basis of a formula.
- The need is that domestic producers must have complete pricing freedom which is the only way to up local production.
- India needs to increase its share of gas consumption from 6 percent currently and needs to protect consumers from getting implicitly subsidised gas.
- Lowering import prices will impact domestic producers and the government should look at giving complete freedom on pricing.

Additional Info

Current Gas Pricing in India

- Gas priced under APM (Administered Price Mechanism) is set by the Government of India.
- Under this system, the oil and gas sector are controlled at four stages viz. production, refining, distribution and marketing.
- Non-APM or Free Market Gas is further divided into two categories, namely, domestically produced gas from Joint Venture fields and imported LNG.
- The pricing of JV gasis governed in terms of thePSC (Production Sharing Contract).
- While the price of LNGunder term contracts is governed by the SPA (Sale and Purchase Agreement)between the LNG seller and the buyer, the spot cargoes are purchased on mutually agreeable commercial terms.
- Further, there is differential pricing existing for different sectors. Subsidized sectors such as power and fertilizer get relatively less prices as compared to other sectors.
- Also, region specific pricing exists in the country with North Eastern states getting gas at relatively cheaper prices as compared to other parts of the country.
- Pricing of a major share of gas supplies in the Indian market iscontrolled and is not market driven as government approval is required before changingthe price.

Indian Crude Basket (IB)

It is the weighted average of Dubai and Oman (sour) and the Brent Crude (sweet) crude oil prices.

·   It is used as an indicator of the price of crude imports in India and the Government of India watches the index when examining domestic price issues.

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How is code of ethics different from code of conduct?. Illustrate with examples. (10 Marks)

A code of ethics is broader, providing a set of principles that affect employee mindset and decision-making.

A code of conduct offers principles defining the ethics of a business, but it also contains specific rules for employee actions and behavior.

Codes of Ethics (CoE) and Codes of Conduct (CoC) are important guidelines in any organisation - public or private. While they share many similarities, there is a clear difference between the two:

- CoE guides decision-making while CoC regulates employees behavior.
- CoE lays out broader guidelines that are in accordance with the mission and vision of an organisation while CoC lays out acceptable behavior and conduct in the workplace.
- CoE is less specific than CoC.
- CoE enlists values and principles while CoC enlists behaviors.
- A violation of CoE may or may not attract punitive action, while a violation of CoC almost always involves a punitive action. Ex: A CoE can have guidelines urging employees to preserve environment, promote fraternity in the workplace, keep honesty in high regard, etc. A CoC can have guidelines such as no personal use of company property, punctuality in the workplace, etc.
- A CoE seeks long-term aims for an organisation, while a CoC seeks to enforce daily habits of employees.

A clearly laid out CoE and CoC along with a Citizens Charter form an integral part of an organization"s work environment and leads to higher productivity and employee satisfaction.

Implementation of Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct in the Public Sector:

- To be effective, codes of ethics and codes of conduct **must be communicated clearly and consistently to public officials** at all levels of government.
  - Examples of effective implementation include **training programs under Karmyogi mission, regular reviews and updates of the codes, 360 degree performance appraisal of civil servants etc.**
- In addition, codes of ethics and codes of conduct should be **integrated into broader systems of accountability and transparency, such as public reporting on ethical violations and independent oversight by bodies** such as ombudsmen and audit committees.

In India, while **there is no prescribed code of ethics for civil servants,** there are conduct rules that contain specific activities deemed undesirable for government servants. Therefore, there is a **need to lay down more generic norms as recommended by Hota committee and 2nd ARC.**

By adhering to codes of ethics and codes of conduct, **civil servants can promote integrity, impartiality, and commitment to public service,** which are essential for maintaining the trust and confidence of the public in the government.

Discuss the opportunities and challenges in Online Gaming and emerging technologies, in India.

- In Gaming industry, Indian regulation has historically been **preventive, rather than facilitative.**
    - However, recently the government has altered this passive approach.
- Government has identified **animation, visual effects, gaming, and comics (AVGC)** as a focus area, and quickly followed it up by **setting up a task force** for it.

Opportunities in Online Gaming and emerging technologies

- Online gaming presents India with a rare opportunity to be a **global leader in these emerging technologies.**
- Gaming is a gateway to frontier technologies like **Augmented reality (AR), Virtual reality (VR), Web3, digital assets, and more.**
- Games like **Iluvium, Three Kingdoms, and StarAtlas** are leveraging **smart-chain technology** to **incentivize users across Asia.**
- The massive multiplayer game **Justice Online** is launching a version that **integrates ChatGPT.**
- **Artificial intelligence** is used regularly for **pathfinding and non-player character** conversations.

Example

- **Vietnam-based Axie Infinity** is pioneering the play-to-earn segment, scaling **non-fungible tokens (NFTs)** to a level unseen before.

Challenges in the gaming industry

Social Issue

- The gaming industry is seen as a **sin sector.**
    - In Japan, **GanGan Comics' WataMote** received a lot of criticism for its **treatment of social anxiety**.
- Unless the industry invests in **educating stakeholders**, it could come to be viewed in the same light as **alcohol, cigarettes, and gambling.**

Conflicting State Laws

- Each game might need to seek clearances at **both central and state levels.**

- In the gaming industry, which requires rapid innovation, a patchwork of compliance requirements may prove **operationally cumbersome.**
- States like **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana** have sought to **ban online gaming** under state laws.

Lack of coordination in Government Policies

- The finance ministry is mulling over **taxing online gaming at 28%** of pot value, which would discourage this industry.
- **Sports ministry** officially **recognizes e-sports**, hopefully for its potential to **generate medals in global sports events.**
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has been encouraging the industry, allowing for **self-regulation.**
- **Both the Government and Industry** need to work together on reconciling all these positions to unlock the **industry's enterprise-value potential.**

Lawsuits and Arbitration

- India is still pushing **deliberations on the future (emerging tech)** through systems of the past (archaic legal systems).
- The ongoing case between **Dream11 and Mobile Premier League** is likely to set a precedent for **rights associated with NFTs** and their permissible use.

Tackling the challenges

- Engage in **'co-opetition'**, come up with a **common minimum plan**, and then approach regulators as a **united front**.
- Support game **de-addiction programs and educate users** on risks and responsibilities.
- Highlight gaming as a **medal winner, a tool for education,** a contributor to the exchequer, a provider of **high-value employment, and more**.
- Create innovative models to monetize efforts beyond real money.
- **Invest in domestic R&D and patents** to accelerate the development of emerging technologies in India.

The government's efforts in facilitating the gaming industry are as important as spreading awareness and education regarding the gaming sector and its opportunities by the industry itself. A coordinative approach between both will solve the existing challenges and it will open a door for India to lead the world in the gaming and emerging technologies.

Do you consider that New IT rules are an assault on India's liberty" ?.

The government recently notified rules under which it will set up appellate panels to redress grievances that users may have against decisions of social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook on hosting contentious content.

IT Rules

- The **IT Rules derive their authority from**the **Information Technology Act, 2000**,which provides legal recognition for electronic commerce.
- **Safe Harbour Provision:**
    - The Act **provides a "safe harbour" for intermediaries**that observe due diligence in discharging their duties and follow guidelines prescribed by the state.
- **Intermediaries:**
    - **Section 79**of the Act **grants immunity** to intermediaries, as long as they follow due diligence and state-prescribed guidelines.
    - Intermediaries **include social media platforms**like WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.
- **First Originator:**
    - The IT Rules**impose obligations on intermediaries** and require social media platforms to provide technological solutions to identify the first originator of any information on their service, under certain circumstances.
- The IT Rules have been subject to several sets of challenges, and petitions are pending consideration in the Supreme Court of India.

New Regulations

- The **2021 IT Rules replaced the previous guidelines**and **sought to regulate intermediaries and digital news media.**
- Social media platforms were **required to provide technological solutions**to identify the **first originator** of any information, **risking privacy.**
- The **amendments introduced in April 2023**give the government power to decide for itself **what information is bogus** and **exercise wide-ranging powers of censorship** by compelling intermediaries to take down posts deemed fake or false.
- The new regulations **threaten freedom of speech and civil liberties**in India by restricting speech through executive order rather than legislation.
    - **Article 19(1)(a)**of the Indian Constitution grants every citizen the right to **freedom of speech and expression**, which can only be limited through **reasonable restrictions** made by law on the grounds stipulated in Article 19(2).
- **Fake news and misinformation**are **not grounds on which speech** can be limited, and the amendments made to the IT Rules do not caveat the restraints they place in any manner.

- The **Fact Check Unit has limitless powers** to decide what information is false and compel social media intermediaries to act based on these findings, which are open-ended and undefined.

Concerns

- **Lacks Clear Definitions:**
    - The amendment fails to define fake news and allows the government''s fact-check unit to declare the veracity of any news "in respect of any business" that involves the state.
    - The use of **undefined words, especially** the phrase **"any business",** gives the government **unchecked power** to decide what people can **see, hear, and read** on the internet.
- **Not a Standard Practice:**
    - A comprehensive parliamentary legislation on fake news, grounded in Article 19(2), would have been a more constitutionally committed campaign against fake news.
        - **In France,** an **independent judge** is **responsible for making declarations** to counter the spread of misinformation during elections.
    - A **lawfully enacted statute** would have demanded consideration of **less restrictive alternatives** to removing misinformation.
- **Removable of Information:**
    - Intermediaries will **remove information deemed** false by the Fact Check Unit, leaving only the state to determine what is true.
    - The new regulation gives the government the power to decide what information is bogus and exercise censorship by compelling intermediaries to take down posts deemed fake or false.
- **Lesser Rights:**
    - The rights of the press and individuals to question authority and speak truth to power will be diminished, and civil liberties will be curtailed.
- **Violates the Supreme Court''s Judgment:**
    - **Shreya Singhal vs Union of India (2015)**, Supreme Court held that a law that limits speech can neither be vague nor over-broad.

Looking ahead

- **Technology Solutions:**
    - Instead of relying solely on censorship, the government and intermediaries can **invest in technology solutions** to tackle misinformation and fake news.
    - **For instance, algorithms can be developed** to identify and **flag false information,** and fact-checking websites can be promoted.

- **Self-Regulation:**
    - Intermediaries can**adopt self-regulatory measures** to prevent the spread of fake news and misinformation.
    - This**can include setting up internal committees** to monitor content and flag any false information and working with fact-checking websites to ensure accuracy.
- **Public Awareness:**
    - It is essential to **create awareness among the public**about the dangers of censorship and the importance of free speech.
    - This can be done **through Social media campaigns, workshops, and discussions in schools, colleges**, and other public forums.
- **Collaborative Approach:**
    - The government, intermediaries, and civil society organizations can work together to develop a collaborative approach to tackle the problem of fake news and misinformation.
    - This can include**setting up a joint task force** to identify and remove false information and promoting media literacy among the public.

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Do you think language should be given priority over other criteria for state reorganisation?.

- Ambedkar felt that a state should have a people of one language to have uniformity and to retain linguistic culture. At the same time, there could be two states where people spoke the same language. He proposed splitting single-language states.
- Gandhian Potti Sriramulu died on December 16, 1952, after a 58-day fast demanding a separate Andhra state for Telugu-speaking people (to be carved out of Madras Presidency). This prompted the central government to go for the SRC and triggered the formation of linguistic states.

Language to be given priority over other criteria:

- The Fazl Ali commission recognised language apart from other factors.
- Satisfy people's aspirations, provide political representation and resolve border disputes like the recent Belgaum one to transfer it to Maharashtra.
- To maintain political stability and avoid causing alienation.
- Convenience for people to be able to connect with state administration in their mother tongue

Reasons for not giving priority to language over other criteria:

- Considering Hindi as a criterion in the north will ensure a large state creating instability as Doctor Ambedkar had remarked.
- Disputes still persist like for control over Bombay in the 50s.
- Practical limitations with effect on linguistic minorities.
- Language and ethnicity overlap in the northeast, so it may not be best practicable criteria.

Since inter-state disputes involve people's emotions and political stakeholders, there is a greater need for stakeholders involved to resolve these issues with greater political will, and a spirit of consensus.

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India as a 'Union of States' sets the stage for Indian Federalism. Examine.

- Article 1 describes India, i.e. Bharat as a "Union of States" rather than a "Federation of States". The country is described as "Union" although its Constitution is federal in structure.
- According to Dr. BR Ambedkar, the phrase "Union of States" has been preferred to "Federation of States" for two reasons:

1) The Indian Federation is not the result of an agreement among the states like the American Federation.

2) The states have no right to secede from the federation.

- The federation is a Union because it is indestructible. The country is an integral whole and divided into different states only for the convenience of administration.
- Union of States is the democratic mechanism of how "India, that is Bharat" is constituted. India is a federation, because without the constituent States there would be no federation. So, one of the critics argued India was not a federation like the United States, where a civil war had to be fought to preserve the "nation". There is an interesting historical background to the American constitutional history of federalism. Initially the 13 colonies were a confederation in 1776 when they fought against England, on the issue of "No taxation without representation". That was the basis of America's war of independence against Britain. America became a federation with closer ties when they adopted the Constitution in 1787.
- The Constitution of India being federal in structure, divides all powers (legislative, executive and financial) between the Centre and the states. Though the Centre and the states are supreme in their respective fields, the maximum harmony and coordination between them is essential for the effective functioning of the federal system.

India enjoys many federal features of the Constitution:

1) Dual Polity
2) Written Constitution
3) Division of Powers
4) Supremacy of the Constitution
5) Rigid Constitution
6) Independent Judiciary
7) Bicameralism

Besides the above features India also enjoys the following unitary or non-federal features:

1) Strong Centre
2) States not Indestructible

3) Single Constitution

4) Flexibility of the Constitution

5) Emergency Provisions

6) Single Citizenship

7) Integrated Judiciary

8) AIS (All India Services)

9) Parliament"s Authority over State List

10) Veto over State Bills

From the above its clear that India deviates from the traditional federal systems and incorporates a large number of unitary or non-federal features, tilting the balance of power in favour of the Centre.

- According to BR Ambedkar it is necessary to bear in mind the fundamental principle on which it rests. The basic principle of federalism is that the legislative and executive authority is partitioned between the Centre and the states not by any law to be made by the Centre but the Constitution itself.
- In Bommai Case (1994), the Supreme Court made it clear that though greater power is conferred upon the Centre vis-a-vis the states does not mean the states are mere appendages of the Centre. The fact that during emergency and some other eventualities their powers are overridden by the Centre is not destructive of the essential federal feature of the Constitution. Let it be said that the federalism in the Indian Constitution is not a matter of administrative convenience, but one of principle- the outcome of our own process and a recognition of the ground realities.

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Trace the evolution of Khalistan Movement. Examine its contemporary status.

Khalistan Movement

- The Khalistan movement is a Sikh separatist movement seeking to create a homeland for Sikhs by establishing a sovereign state, called Khalistan in the Punjab Region.
- The geographical area of proposed state involve land that currently forms Indian Punjab, Chandigarh and some parts of the neighbouring Indian states, most particularly bordering Punjabi-speaking areas of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan.
- Over the years, the movement has survived in various forms, in various places and amongst different populations.
- The movement was crushed in India following Operation Blue Star (1984) and Operation Black Thunder (1986 and 1988), but it continues to evoke sympathy and support among sections of the Sikh population, especially in the Sikh diaspora in countries such as Canada, the UK, and Australia.

1. *Before Independence*

- *The Singh Sabha Movement*: It was founded at Amritsar in 1873 with a two-fold objective, to make available modern western education to the Sikhs, and to counter the proselytizing activities of Christian missionaries as well as the Brahmo Samajists, Arya Samajists, and Muslim maulvis.
- *The Akali movement* (also known as Gurudwara Reform Movement): It was an offshoot of the Singh Sabha Movement. It aimed at liberating the Sikh gurudwaras from the control of corrupt Udasi mahants.

2. *After Independence*

- *1947 Partition of India*: Partition left Sikhs in a lot of discontentment with regard to their traditional lands being lost to Pakistan and also a mass exodus of immigrants from Pakistan.
- *Punjabi Suba movement*: It was initiated in 1955 under Akali Dal, a Sikh dominated political party. It sought re-organization of Punjab along linguist lines, seeking division of the state into Punjabi and non-Punjabi speaking areas. After a series of violent protests movement resulted in the trifurcation of Punjab into Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh.
- *Anandpur Sahib Resolution*: It reignited the passion of Sikhs and sowed the seeds of the Khalistan movement. The resolution demanded autonomy for the state of Punjab.
- All the above events have strengthened the claim of Khalistan.

Intensification of Movement

Although the above events have sown the seeds of Khalistan, the Khalistan movement was intensified by the following events:

- *Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale*: He travelled across Punjab advocating a return to the Khalsa or a more orthodox form of Sikhism.

- He was inspired by the Khalistan ideology & led the Khalistan as an extremist movement (through violent protests and killings of high-profile persons in the Indian government) and turned against the Indian government.
- *Operation Blue star (1984)*: It was conducted to capture Bhindrawale in Golden Temple Complex, but the operation resulted in a strong anti-India sentiment.
- *The assassination of Indira Gandhi*: The then PM Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh guards in 1984. Her killing was followed by wide-spread riots against the Sikhs in Delhi & other parts, the genocide of Sikhs across India fuelled more anti-India sentiment.
- *Radicalization of youth*: Manifold extremist groups like the Khalistan Liberation Force, Khalistan Commando Force, Babbar Khalsa, and others gained prominence and roamed around freely across Punjab. Which led to more polarization and radicalization of youth by these groups.
- *Role of Pakistan*: Pakistan's ISI tried to foment the violence by providing support to extremist groups.
- *Referendum 2020*: Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) in its London Declaration has announced to hold the first-ever non-binding referendum among the global Sikh community with the goal of re-establishing Punjab as a nation-state.

Contemporary Status

- At the present, Khalistan movement is a dormant movement in India.
- It does not hold much traction in the urban or local populace of Punjab.
- But the movement gets ideological support from Sikhs living in Canada, UK or USA.
- They pump money, ideological support to the struggle; ISI of Pakistan is still pumping money and effort in reviving the movement.

What was the Kesavananda Bharati case?. Elucidate the significance of the Kesavananda Bharati judgement. (20 Marks)

The case

- The origins of the Kesavananda Bharati case **can be traced back to the land reforms** that were introduced in the Indian state of Kerala in the 1950s and 1960s. These reforms were aimed at redistributing land from large landowners to the landless and the poor. In 1963, the Kerala government passed the Kerala Land Reforms Act, which placed a limit on the amount of land that a person could hold. The Act provided for the acquisition of excess land from landowners and its distribution to the landless and the poor.

- The Kesavananda Bharati **judgment, delivered on 24 April 1973**, is a landmark judgment of the Supreme Court of India. The case was filed by Sri Kesavananda Bharati, the head of a Hindu religious mutt in Kerala, challenging the constitutional validity of the 24th, 25th and 29th Amendments to the Indian Constitution, which sought to curtail the powers of the judiciary and the fundamental rights of citizens.

- The Supreme Court, in a historic 7:6 majority decision, propounded the basic structure doctrine of the Constitution, which holds that certain fundamental features of the Constitution, such as democracy, secularism, federalism, and the rule of law, cannot be amended by parliament. The court also held that the power of judicial review is an integral part of the basic structure of the Constitution, and cannot be taken away by Parliament through constitutional amendments.

- The significance of the Kesavananda Bharati case lies in the fact that it established the doctrine of basic structure of the Indian Constitution. The basic structure doctrine holds that certain fundamental features of the Constitution, such as the supremacy of the Constitution, the rule of law, and the independence of the judiciary, cannot be amended or abrogated by the Parliament through a constitutional amendment.

Significance of Basic Structure Doctrine

1. **Constitutionalism**: The basic structure doctrine attests to the concept of Constitutionalism in preventing the governing majority"s brutal majority from destroying the core of the Constitution of India.
2. **Uphold the Federal sturcture**: The Indian Constitution has a federal structure and is distinguished by traditional features of a federal system, such as the supremacy of the Constitution, the division of powers between the Union and State governments, the presence of an independent judiciary, and a strict process for amending the Constitution.
3. **Democracy**: The core idea rescued Indian democracy by limiting constituent power; else, limitless power of parliament would have converted India into a totalitarian state.
4. **Preserving Fundamentals**: It aids in the preservation of the fundamental concepts of our constitution, which were painstakingly crafted by our founding fathers.

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5. **Separation of powers**: It strengthens our democracy by defining a real separation of powers in which the judiciary is distinct from the other two institutions. It has also given the Supreme Court unrivalled power, making it the most powerful court in the world.

This doctrine has served as a check on the power of the Parliament to amend the Constitution and has ensured that the Constitution remains a living document that is responsive to changing times while preserving its fundamental values and principles. The Kesavananda Bharati case has thus had far-reaching consequences for the constitutional development of India, making it one of the most significant cases in Indian constitutional law.

Read More - https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-law/kesavananda-case-and-its-legacy-sc-has-used-doctrine-sparingly-pushed-back-against-attempts-to-shackle-judicial-review-8572292/

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Karst landform is a type of landscape that is formed by the dissolution of soluble rocks such as limestone, dolomite, and gypsum. Conditions that promote karst development are well-jointed, dense limestone near the surface; moderate to heavy rainfall; and good groundwater circulation.

■ This unique topography is characterized by sinkholes, disappearing streams, caves, and underground drainage systems.
■ Karst topography is found in many regions around the world and has significant ecological, geological, and human importance.

Nature of Karst topography

Erosional landforms that characterize karst topography:

■ **Sinkholes:** Sinkholes are circular depressions in the ground that are formed when the overlying soil and rock collapse into underground cavities.
■ **Caves:** Caves are underground chambers and passages that are formed by the dissolution of rock. These can range from small cavities to large, complex systems that span many miles. Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky, USA. This park is home to the world"s longest known cave system, with over 650 km of explored passageways.
■ **Lapies:** It is formed due to differential solution activity along parallel to sub-parallel joints. They are also called grooved, fluted and ridge-like features in an open limestone field.

Depositional landforms that characterize karst topography:

■ **Stalactite**: A portion of the roof hangs on the roof and on evaporation of water, a small deposit of limestone is left behind contributing to the formation of a stalactite, growing downwards from the roof.
■ **Stalagmite:** The remaining portion of the drop falls to the floor. This also evaporates, leaving behind a small deposit of limestone aiding the formation of a stalagmite, thicker and flatter, rising upwards from the floor.
■ **Column:** Sometimes, stalactite and stalagmite join together to form a complete pillar known as the column. Ha Long Bay, Vietnam is UNESCO World Heritage Site and is known for its tower-like limestone formations, which are formed by Karst Topography.
■ **Disappearing Streams:** Disappearing streams are streams that flow into the ground and disappear into underground drainage systems.

■ **Underground Lake:** Most naturally occurring underground lakes are found in areas of Karst topography, where limestone or other soluble rock has been weathered away, leaving a cave where water can flow and accumulate.

Significance of Karst Topography

■ **Geological Significance:** The dissolution of soluble rocks results in the formation of complex underground drainage systems, which can lead to the creation of vast cave systems.

■ These caves can contain important geological formations, such as stalactites, stalagmites, and flowstones, which provide insights into the Earth''s geological history.

■ **Human Significance:** Many karst regions around the world are used for agriculture and forestry, and they provide important sources of raw materials, such as limestone for construction. However, human activities can also have negative impacts on karst ecosystems, such as groundwater contamination and soil erosion.

■ **Ecological Significance:** It provides habitats for a diverse range of plant and animal species, many of which are unique to karst environments. The porous nature of the rock formations allows water to seep through and form underground aquifers, which provide important sources of freshwater for drinking, irrigation, and industry.

Karst topographical areas in India.

The major karst areas in India are:

■ Guptadham caves in Western Bihar
■ Robert caves and Tapkeshwar temples in Uttarakhand
■ Pandav caves Pachmarhi in Madhya Pradesh
■ Kutumsar in Chattisgarh
■ Borra caves of Vishakapatnam

Karsts are found in widely scattered sections of the world, including the caucus of France; the Kwangsi area of China; the Yucatan Peninsula in the United States. Human activities have negative impacts on karst ecosystems, and it is important to protect and preserve these fragile landscapes.

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How will you explain that Medieval Indian temple sculptures represent the social life of those days? (Answer in 150 words) UPSC MAINS 2022

- Medieval Indian temple sculptures are some of the most important historical and artistic treasures of India. They are not just beautiful works of art, but also powerful representations of the social life of the people who lived during that time. Through these sculptures, we can learn about the beliefs, customs, and lifestyles of the people who lived in India during the medieval period.

- Medieval India was a time of great artistic and cultural ferment, with a rich tradition of religious and secular sculpture. The temples of this era were not just places of worship, but also centers of community life. They were the hub of social and cultural activity, and the sculptures that adorned their walls and pillars provided a visual representation of the daily life of the people who frequented these temples.

- One of the most striking features of these sculptures is the **rich diversity** they depict. The people depicted in these sculptures come from all walks of life, from noblemen and warriors to merchants and artisans. This rich diversity is a testament to the vibrant and inclusive society that existed in medieval India.

- Another important aspect of these sculptures is the **representation of women**. In many cases, women are shown as equal partners in social and economic life. For example, there are sculptures depicting women working as artisans, merchants, or even warriors. This representation of women as active participants in society is a powerful statement about the status of women during this time.

- The temple sculptures also provide a glimpse into the **daily life of the people** who lived during this time. They depict scenes of people cooking, eating, and working. These depictions give us a sense of what life was like for ordinary people and help to bring the past to life. For example, there are sculptures depicting people cooking and serving food, which gives us a sense of the importance of food and hospitality in medieval India.

- In addition to depicting everyday life, these sculptures also provide a **glimpse into the cultural and religious beliefs** of the people of medieval India. Many of these sculptures depict Hindu gods and goddesses, and they often show the gods in various forms and poses. This representation of the gods is a powerful expression of the religious beliefs of the people who lived during this time.

- Another important aspect of these sculptures is the **representation of animals**. In many cases, animals are depicted as symbols of strength, power, and fertility. For example, lions are often depicted as symbols of power and courage, while elephants are depicted as symbols of wealth and prosperity. These representations help us to understand the cultural significance of animals in medieval India.

- The medieval Indian temple sculptures hence provide a rich and complex picture of the social life of the people who lived during this time. They offer a window into the beliefs, customs, and lifestyles of the people of this era, and they provide a powerful representation of the diversity and vitality of this period in Indian history. Through these

sculptures, we can gain a deeper understanding of the past, and appreciate the art and culture of medieval India.

Why did the armies of the British East India Company – mostly comprising of Indian Soldiers – win consistently against the more numerous and better equipped armies of the then Indian rulers? Give reasons. (UPSC MAINS 2022)

Indians were recruited for the British East India Company''s army because they were familiar with the conditions in India. Indians were prepared to take lower wages. As a result, the East India Company''s overall expenditures were cheaper than those of contracted British army men. Because of the immense distance that separated Britain from India, the British people were not willing to move India. The English had enforced every available means of war and administrative procedures in order to consolidate their own authority over India.

Superior military and armaments strategy:

- The British had cannon and assault rifles that were more advanced in terms of their range and shooting speed than Indian weapons.
- Many Indian rulers brought European weapons, but they were unable to develop war strategy like British authorities.

Armed regulation, dedication, and consistent remuneration:

- The British were very careful about a regular income and a rigid code of conduct that guaranteed the loyalty of the commanders and soldiers.
- The rulers of India lacked the resources necessary to make regular salary payments.
- Some of the kings were dependent on their own personal guards of unruly and disloyal mercenaries.

Effective leadership:

- Robert Clive, Warren Hastings, Elphinstone, Munro, and others demonstrated exceptional leadership traits.
- The British also profited from second-line commanders like Sir Eyre Coote, Lord Lake, Arthur Wellesley, and others who stand up for their nation''s interests and honor.
- While the Indian side had excellent commanders like Haider Ali, Tipu Sultan, Madhu Rao, Sindhia, and Jaswant Rao Holkar, they needed a second line of leadership.

A solid financial foundation:

- A great deal of wealth was contributed to England by British trade, which led to government assistance in the form of money, materials, and other resources.

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Absence of national pride and unification:

- Indian rulers lacked a cohesive political nationalism, which the British skillfully exploited to incite civil war among them.

The East India Company had a private army. The corporation utilized its armed power to impose terrible taxes, carry out officially approved plundering, subjugate Indian governments and principalities with which it had previously entered into commercial deals, and defend its economic exploitation of both skilled and unskilled Indian workers.

India was hit by recurrent famine from 1760 AD to till 1943 AD during the British Raj for several reasons as listed below:

- Colonial policies - The colonial policies included rack-renting, levies for war, free trade policies, the expansion of export agriculture, and neglect of agricultural investment.
- Commercialisation of Agriculture - Indian exports of opium, indigo, jute, and cotton were a key component of the economy of the British empire, generating vital foreign currency. This affected food production in India.
- Colonial Export Policy - Policy of exporting Rice and Wheat. For example, two of the worst famine-affected areas in the Madras Presidency, the districts of Ganjam and Vizagapatam, continued to export grains throughout the famine.
- Apathetic Famine codes of the British British Codes were explicit in casting a duty on public officials to spend the minimum that was necessary, only to prevent the loss of lives, and nothing beyond that.Did not address non farm rural persons such as artisans, weavers etc.
- World wars and British expansionist wars around the world Indian Grains were diverted to war expeditions in foreign soil.
- Agrarian Policies -The Zamindari, Mahalwari and Ryotwari system pushed back agricultural production and led to agricultural backwardness.
- Rural Indebtedness: Debt has always been a major component of India's rural economy. Due to exorbitant rents and illegitimate taxation imposed by the British Government, peasants were heavily indebted, this indebtedness was exacerbated by the onset of severe drought-like circumstances which culminated in the onset of famines.
- Drought: The people's suffering from the previous year's drought was not alleviated by the extreme rainfall in 1770; on the contrary, it led to river overflows and devastated standing crops. Famines were always triggered by a significant increase in food prices, which in turn reduced real earnings and led to epidemics, malnutrition, and hunger, particularly among groups of agricultural labourers.

Famines that occurred during the colonial era had a tremendous influence on the economy and even the culture. Famines unquestionably had a negative impact on population growth and slowed down economic development.

Describe the characteristics and types of primary rocks. UPSC MAINS 2022 - General Studies Paper 1

A primary rock is a rock whose constituents are newly formed and have never been constituents of some other rock or formed through replacement and alterations. These are basically crystalline rocks with no organic remains on them. Igneous rock is a Primary Rock, as these are formed when hot magma cools down and solidifies. Igneous rocks are further classified into intrusive igneous rocks and extrusive igneous rocks. Intrusive or plutonic igneous rocks are formed when magma is trapped inside earth and cools down slowly over years forming coarse grained rocks.

Intrusive Igneous Rocks	Extrusive Igneous Rocks
1.The igneous rocks found below the surface of the Earth are known as intrusive igneous rocks.	The igneous rocks found on the surface of the Earth are known as extrusive igneous rocks.
2.These are formed when the magma cools and solidifies below the Earth"s surface.	These are formed when the lava cools and solidifies after reaching the Earth"s surface during a volcanic eruption.
3. Examples: Granite and dolerite	Examples: Basalt and obsidian

Characteristics of Primary Rocks

- They are unfossiliferous : Any fossils are burnt away due to high temperature.
- Texture of the rocks: The grains are either coarse or fine which is reflective of the rate of cooling of magma.
- Mineral Rich: Since their origin is directly from the magma, they are rich in minerals especially ferrous minerals.
- Colour of the rocks: Colour of the rocks reflects its composition. Dark colour usually indicates basic magma as its source and light colour indicates acidic magma.

Primary rocks are an important source of information about the geology of an area, as they provide insight into the composition and temperature of the magma or lava that formed them. They are also an important resource for various industries, including construction and manufacturing.