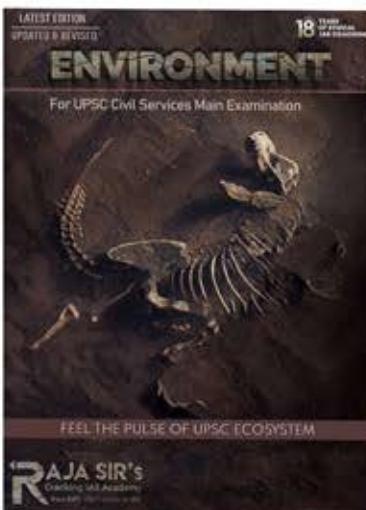
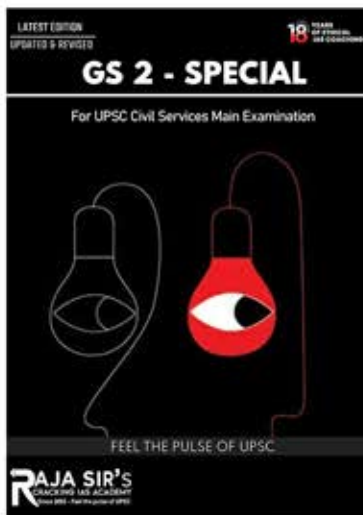


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What do you understand by the term 'good governance? How far recent initiatives in terms of e-Governance steps taken by the State have helped the beneficiaries? Discuss with suitable examples.

Good governance is a term that refers to the principles and practices that ensure the effective and responsible management

Write short notes on the following in 30 words each

- 1. Constitutional morality**
- 2. Conflict of interest**
- 3. Probity in public life**
- 4. Challenges of digitalization**
- 5. Devotion to duty.**

(i) Constitutional morality - It means “a paramount reverence for the forms of the constitution, enforcing obedience to authority and acting under and within these ...”

Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and

When the British came to India, they introduced the English language as well as where people like Raja Ram Mohan Roy,

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6. Ramesh is State Civil Services Officer who got the opportunity of getting posted to the capital of a border State after rendering 20 years of service. Ramesh's mother has recently been detected cancer and has been admitted in the leading cancer
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9. The Supreme Court has banned mining in the Aravalli Hills to stop degradation of the forest cover and to maintain ecological balance. However, the stone mining is still prevalent in the border district of the affected State with connivance of
10. You have done MBA from a reputed institution three years back but could not get campus placement due to COVID-19 generated recession. However, after a lot of persuasion and series of competitive tests including written and interview, you managed
11. Rakesh was working as Joint Commissioner in Transport Department of a city. As a Part of his Job profile, among others, he was entrusted with the task of overseeing the control and functioning of City Transport Department. A case of strike by the drivers' union of City Transport Department over the issue of
12. You are appointed as an officer heading the section in Environment Pollution Control Board to ensure compliance and its follow-up. In that region, there were large number of small and medium industries which had been granted clearance you learnt

13. [Evaluate the nature of Bhakti Literature and its contribution to Indian culture. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies \(Paper – 1\)](#)
14. [Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahma Samaj. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies \(Paper – 1\)](#)
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17. [Despite India being one of the countries of Gondwanaland, its mining industry contributes much less to its Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\) in percentage. Discuss. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies \(Paper – 1\)](#)
18. [What are the environmental implications of the reclamation of the water bodies into urban land use? Explain with examples. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies \(Paper – 1\)](#)
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21. [Examine the uniqueness of tribal knowledge systems when compared with mainstream knowledge and cultural systems. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies \(Paper – 1\)](#)
22. [Examine the role of 'Gig Economy' in the process of empowerment of women in India. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies \(Paper – 1\)](#)
23. [To what extent did the role of the moderates prepare a base for the wider freedom movement? Comment. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies \(Paper – 1\)](#)
24. [Bring out the constructive programmes of Mahatma Gandhi during Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies \(Paper – 1\)](#)
25. ["There arose a serious challenge to the Democratic State System between the two World Wars." Evaluate the statement. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies \(Paper – 1\)](#)
26. [Briefly mention the alignment of major mountain ranges of the world and explain their impact on local weather conditions, with examples. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies \(Paper – 1\)](#)
27. [How do the melting of the Arctic ice and glaciers of the Antarctic differently affect the weather patterns and human activities on the Earth? Explain. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies \(Paper – 1\)](#)
28. [Discuss the multi-dimensional implications of uneven distribution of mineral oil in the world. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies \(Paper – 1\)](#)
29. [What are the main socio-economic implications arising out of the development of IT industries in major cities of India?. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies \(Paper – 1\)](#)

30. Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)
31. What is Cryptocurrency? How does it affect global society? Has it been affecting Indian society also?. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)
32. How does Indian society maintain continuity in traditional social values? Enumerate the changes taking place in it.. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)
33. 'Constitutional Morality' is rooted in the Constitution itself and is founded on its essential facets. Explain the doctrine of 'Constitutional Morality' with the help of relevant judicial decisions. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 2)
34. Discuss the desirability of greater representation to women in the higher judiciary to ensure diversity, equity and inclusiveness. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 2)
35. How have the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission of India enabled the States to improve their fiscal position?. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 2)
36. To what extent, in your view, the Parliament is able to ensure accountability of the executive in India?. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 2)
37. "Pressure groups play a vital role in influencing public policy making in India." Explain how the business associations contribute to public policies. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 2)
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What do you understand by the term 'good governance'? How far recent initiatives in terms of e-Governance steps taken by the State have helped the beneficiaries? Discuss with suitable examples. UPSC IAS Mains 2022 General Studies (Paper – 4)

- Good governance is a term that refers to the principles and practices that ensure the effective and responsible management of a country or organization. It involves the transparency, accountability, rule of law, and participation of all stakeholders in the decision-making process. Good governance is essential for the well-being of any society, as it helps to ensure that resources are used effectively and efficiently and that the rights and needs of all citizens are taken into consideration.
- In recent years, there have been numerous initiatives in the field of e-governance, which involves the use of technology to improve the delivery of government services. One example of this is the implementation of online portals and mobile apps that allow citizens to access government services and information from anywhere, at any time. These initiatives have helped to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of government services, making them more accessible and convenient for the beneficiaries.
- Another example of e-governance initiatives is the use of digital platforms to facilitate the participation of citizens in the decision-making process. For example, many governments now use social media and other online platforms to consult with citizens and gather feedback on policy proposals. This can help to increase transparency and accountability and ensure that the needs and concerns of citizens are taken into consideration.
- Overall, recent initiatives in e-governance have helped to improve the delivery of government services and increase the participation of citizens in the decision-making process. These initiatives have played a key role in promoting good governance and helping to ensure that the needs and rights of the beneficiaries are met.

Online methodology is being used for day-to-day meetings, institutional approvals in the administration and for teaching and learning in education sector to the extent telemedicine in the health sector is getting popular with the approvals of the competent authority. No doubt, it has advantages and disadvantages for both the beneficiaries and the system at large. Describe and discuss the ethical issues involved in the use of online method particularly to the vulnerable section of the society. UPSC IAS Mains 2022 General Studies (Paper – 4)

Digitization refers to application of ICT to make government SMART- Simple, Moral, Accountable, Responsive and Transparent. Ethical issues are those issues that lend themselves as situations or matters where an individual as a moral being engages his or her moral intellect to make a decision as to whether something is right or wrong. Ethical issues in use of online method are –

- Privacy- Refers to a “zone of inaccessibility” that surrounds a person. Privacy is also a recognized fundamental right. Solitude, anonymity and intimacy are also cherished human values which are challenged by digitization.
- Trust- Because the government information is generally sensitive and can be misused, there is an element of trust involved.
- Data protection- Prevention of misuse of personal data.
- Right to be forgotten- Prevent any display of personal data once the purpose of disclosing of data is ended.
- Computer decisions- When computers are relied upon to make decisions, a new phenomenon of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is created. It lacks human touch. Moral status of machine cannot be made equal to human being.
- Security- E governance initiatives still remain vulnerable to security breaches. Three aspects of data security are confidentiality, integrity and availability of information.
- Cyber-crimes- new technologies creating new opportunities of crimes, new ways to steal and new ways to harm others.
- Technology dependence- Our dependence on systems and our vulnerability to system errors and poor data quality have increased. Yet, our social rules and laws have not yet adjusted to this dependence. Standards for ensuring the accuracy and reliability of information systems are not universally accepted and enforced.
- Digital divide- E governance becomes an ethical issue when ICT tools cannot be afforded by all citizens intended to be served by their government. Issues of “digital divide” separating society into “haves” and “have nots”.
- Reliability- System crashes, challenge of hacking.

Thus, digital governance goals must ensure that that they do not violate the goals of ethical governance.

Russia and Ukraine war has been going on for the last seven months. Different countries have taken independent stands and actions keeping in view their own national interests. We are all aware that war has its own impact on the different aspects of society, including human tragedy. What are those ethical issues that are crucial to be considered while launching the war and its continuation so far? Illustrate with justification the ethical issues involved in the given state of affair. UPSC IAS Mains 2022 General Studies (Paper – 4)

Securing National Interest is the supreme goal of foreign policy. War is also considered as a means to secure national interest.

However, just war theory sets out principles for a war to be ethical, the war must be:

- Waged by a legitimate authority (State)
- In a just cause.
- Waged with right intentions.
- Have a strong probability of success.
- Be a last resort.
- Be proportional.

In addition, there are three principles for conduct in war:

- Discrimination (distinguishing between enemy combatants and non-combatants).
- Proportionality (harm must be proportional to gains achieved).
- Actions must be militarily necessary.

Apart from these, there are Indian principles of dharmayuddha, universal peace and nonviolence, Panchsheel, nonaggression, no first use.

Even in the current war, PM Modi has tried to open a new window of peace in Ukraine by conveying his message to Russian President Putin that “Era of war has ended.”

Write short notes on the following in 30 words each 1. Constitutional morality 2. Conflict of interest 3. Probity in public life 4. Challenges of digitalization 5. Devotion to duty. UPSC IAS Mains 2022 General Studies (Paper – 4)

(i) Constitutional morality - It means “a paramount reverence for the **forms** of the constitution, enforcing obedience to authority and **acting under and within these forms**, yet combined with the habit of **open speech**, of action subject only to definite legal control. Constitutional morality is crucial for constitutional laws to be effective, without constitutional morality, the operation of constitution will tend to be arbitrary and effective.

E.g.; - In Naz foundation case, Delhi HC invoked Constitutional morality in decriminalizing consensual sexual relationship proscribed by Section 377 of IPC. Similarly, in Sabrimala judgement, Hon. Supreme Court bypassed the doctrine of essentiality to uphold supremacy of constitutional morality.

(ii) Conflict of interest - Conflict of interest arises when what is in a person's best interest is not in the best interest of another person or organization to which that individual owes loyalty. Conflict of interest can also exist when a person must answer to two different individuals or groups whose needs are at odds with each other.

E.g. - if a legislator attempts to profit from knowledge, this becomes example of insider trading. Bill and Melinda gates foundation has stakes in both manufacturing and sales of vaccination.

(iii) Probity in public life - Complete and confirmed integrity, uprightness, and honesty in following the process. It is incorruptibility of character and possession of uprightness in the matters of governance like service delivery. Probity ensures accountability, integrity, compliance with process, preserves public confidence in governance process and avoid any potential for misconduct, fraud and corruption.

E.g., M Visvesvaraya can be called as an example of probity in public life.

Lal bahadur Shastri, TN Sheshan never used public offices for personal gains and can be cited as examples of probity in public life.

(iv) Challenges of digitization - Digitization refers to application of ICT to make government SMART- Simple, Moral, Accountable, Responsive and Transparent. Challenges of digitization include issues like privacy concern, trust, reliability, data security, cybercrimes, computer made decisions, technology dependence, digital divide.

(v) Devotion to duty- Means a strong feeling of loyalty, love, and admiration that a civil servant must have for the duty. Devotion to duty enables his will to exert more time, energy, and effort in fulfilment of his duty. Devotion to duty is opposed to indifference to duty or easy-going or light-hearted approach to duty.

E.g.; - S Manjunath is an example of devoted civil servant. He laid down his life while exposing adulteration and corruption at petrol pumps.

TN Subramani an IAS officer is known for his devotion to duty, he exposed illegal granite mining and nexus between mining mafia and politicians in Tamil Nadu.

Whistleblower, who reports corruption and illegal activities, wrongdoing, and misconduct to the concerned authorities, runs the risk of being exposed to grave danger, physical harm and victimization by the vested interests, accused persons and his team. What policy measures would you suggest to strengthen protection mechanism to safeguard the whistleblower?. UPSC IAS Mains 2022 General Studies (Paper – 4)

The incident of Uber Files reveal has again highlighted the importance of whistleblowing in fighting the menace of corruption. Whistleblowing refers to **calling attention to wrongdoing happening in an organization.**

Issues with the Whistle-blower protection:

1. **Physical harm and Victimization:**
 - Murder of Satyendra Dubey
 - **Since the implementation of the RTI Act, some 100 RTI activists across the country have been killed.**
2. **Livelihood Loss:** Whistleblowers are sometimes cornered in an organization and in extreme situations are forced to quit their job.
3. **Legislative Lacunas:**
 - The internal mechanism mandated under the Company Act remains subordinate to the management of the company. A whistle-blower will remain completely prey to the management's whims.
 - The shortcomings in **Whistle Blowers Protection Act 2014**
 - limited to public servants
 - the competent authority to receive complaint on victimization is usually the senior official in the hierarchy. This makes it difficult for the informant to receive any protection;
 - **Does not allow anonymous complaints** to be submitted and investigated;
 - **Failure to operationalize Act** by framing the Rules.

Policy measures to improve the whistle blower protection:

1. Amend the Whistleblowers Protection Act
 - Provide universal protection: Many States in the US (like Florida, Hawaii,) have include both public and private sector employers under the whistleblower's protection acts.
 - Allowing anonymous complaints
 - Robust reward mechanism be created for incentivization. At the same time, fines against false and frivolous complaints also need to be enhanced.
 - Formulating the Rules necessary to operationalize the Act.
2. Freedom to whistle-blowers to report their complaint to independent authorities rather than senior officials. For instance, in the U.S, there are separate offices established under different laws with neutral investigators who are responsible for investigating any claims submitted to them by a whistle-blower. They are specifically designed to receive and investigate whistle-blower complaints.

Therefore, the whistle-blowers should be given an enabling ecosystem to disclose the illegal practices carried on in any organization in consonance with the mandate of the **UN Convention against Corruption** to which **India is a signatory**.

Ramesh is State Civil Services Officer who got the opportunity of getting posted to the capital of a border State after rendering 20 years of service. Ramesh's mother has recently been detected cancer and has been admitted in the leading cancer hospital of the city. His two adolescent children have also got admission in one of the best public schools of the town. After settling down in his appointment as Director in the Home Department of the State, Ramesh got confidential report through intelligence sources that illegal migrants are infiltrating in the State from the neighbouring country. He decided to personally carry out surprise check of the border posts along with his Home Department team. To his surprise, he caught red-handed two families of 12 members infiltrated with the connivance of the security personnel at the border posts. On further inquiry and investigation, it was found that after the migrants from neighbouring country infiltrate, their documentation like Aadhaar Card, Ration Card and Voter Card are also forged and they are made to settle down in a particular area of the State. Ramesh prepared the detailed and comprehensive report and submitted to the Additional Secretary of the State. However, he has summoned by the Additional Home Secretary after a week and was instructed to withdraw the report. The Additional Home Secretary informed Ramesh that the report submitted by him has not been appreciated by the higher authorities. He further cautioned him that if he fails to withdraw the confidential report, he will not only be posted out from the prestigious appointment from the State capital but his further promotion which is due in near future will also get in jeopardy. (a) What are the Department options available to Ramesh as the Director of the Home Department of the bordering State? (b) What option should Ramesh adopt and why? (c) Critically evaluate each of the options. (d) What are the ethical dilemmas being faced by Ramesh? (e) What policy measures would you suggest to combat the menace of infiltration of illegal migrants from the neighbouring country?. UPSC IAS Mains 2022 General Studies (Paper – 4).UPSC IAS Mains 2022 General Studies (Paper – 4)

Being the director of home department of the bordering State, it is the duty of Ramesh to ensure the security of State as well as national security. The issue of illegal migration needs to be dealt seriously given its hazardous impact in the form of resource pressure, illegal activities pursued by migrants, chances of ethnic conflicts, forced change in demography, etc.

(b) Options available to Ramesh as the director of home department of the bordering State

- To toe the line of Additional Secretary and taking back the report
- To approach the Chief secretary and if required the Home Minister
- To send copy of a report to Central Home Ministry

(c) Ramesh should adopt option 2 and keep option 3 as last report if nothing fruitful is achieved in second option.

- Firstly, this will clearly highlight his dedication and commitment to public service, courage of conviction and respect for constitutional morality. Ensuring security of citizens and the country is the primary duty of civil servants.
- Secondly, it might lead to a swift action on part of Chief secretary or Minister to deal with the menace of illegal migration both on ground of responsibility as well as to avoid it from harming the election prospects of ruling party in next elections.
- The corrupt higher officials as well as security personnel on border posts might also be dealt stringently for abusing their positions for personal gains and staking the security of State.
- He can even raise the issue of forging of documents on large scale
- It might lead to personal difficulties if Chief Secretary/Minister also ask him to take back his report as he might get punishment posting out of the city making treatment of his mother and studies of his children difficult. But while joining the State civil service, Ramesh was aware that he might have to deal with such situations but still he joined given the primacy he accorded to public service over personal interest. Alternate arrangements can be made such as arranging accommodation for family in the city only.

(c)

Critical evaluation of all options

1. To toe the line of Additional Secretary and taking back the report-

(a) Merits

- His appointment as director and posting in the city will be secure
- Good relations with the senior

(b) Demerits

- Lack of personal and professional integrity
- Compromise of security of state having serious repercussions in future
- Crisis of conscience- will take peace of his life

2. To approach the Chief secretary and if required the Home Minister

(a) Merits

- Primacy to national security
- Problem of illegal migration might be dealt promptly
- Expose wrongdoings in the home department

(b) Demerits

- No action might be taken even by them
- Punishment posting
- Personal interest will be hurt

3. To send copy of a report to Central Home Ministry

(a) Merits

- Shows courage of conviction
- Man of probity
- National interest and state security might be ensured with Centre's intervention

(b) Demerits

- Hostile relations with state bureaucracy
- Show State government in bad light for its inaction and sitting over the report

Ethical dimensions being faced by Ramesh:

- Menace of illegal migration
- Corruption of security personnel
- Forging of documents
- Law and order problem in future
- Pressure from seniors to withdraw the report, highlighting poor institutional integrity and institutionalization of corruption
- Conflict of interest (public interest v personal difficulties)
- Policy measures to combat the menace of infiltration of illegal migrants from neighbouring country
- Strengthening the protection of border areas by increasing use of technology (lasers, thermal imaging)
- Zero tolerance against corrupt officials
- Bilateral talks and cooperation with the neighbouring country
- Working out options of legalizing migration through work permits, if possible, as using them as asset

Thus, multi-pronged approach will be required for a sustainable and permanent solution to menace of illegal migration.

Prabhat was working as Vice President (Marketing) at Sterling Electric Ltd., a reputed multinational company. But presently the company was passing through the difficult times as the sales were continuously showing downward trend in the last two quarters. His division, which hitherto had been a major revenue contributor to the company's financial health, was now desperately trying to procure some big government order for them. But their best efforts did not yield any positive success or breakthrough. His was a professional company and his local bosses were under pressure from their London-based HO to show some positive results. In the last performance review meeting taken by the Executive Director (India Head), he was reprimanded for his poor performance. He assured them that his division is working on a special contract from the Ministry of Defence for a secret installation near Gwalior and tender is being submitted shortly. He was under extreme pressure and he was deeply perturbed. What aggravated the situation further was a warning from the top that if the deal is not clinched in favour of the company, his division might have to be closed and he may have to quit his lucrative job. There was another dimension which was causing him deep mental torture and agony. This pertained to his personal precarious financial health. He was a single earner in the family with two school-college going children and his old ailing mother. The heavy expenditure on education and medical was causing a big strain to his monthly pay packet. Regular EMI for housing loan taken from bank was unavoidable and any default would render him liable for severe legal action. In the above backdrop, he was hoping for some miracle to happen. There was sudden turn of events. His secretary informed that a gentleman-Subhash Verma wanted to see him as he was interested in the position of Manager which was to be filled in by him in the company. He further brought to his notice that his CV has been received through the office of the Minister of Defence. During interview of the candidate-Subhash Verma, he found him technically sound, resourceful and experienced marketeer. He seemed to be well-conversant with tendering procedures and having knack of follow-up and liaising in this regard. Prabhat felt that he was better choice than the rest of the candidates who were recently interviewed by him in the last few days. Subhash Verma also indicated that he was in possession of the copies of the bid documents that the Unique Electronics Ltd. would be submitting the next day to the Defence Ministry for their tender. He offered to hand over those documents subject to his employment in the company on suitable terms and conditions. He made it clear that in the process, the Sterling Electric Ltd. could outbid their rival company and get the bid and hefty Defence Ministry order. He indicated that it will be win-win situation for both-him and the company. Prabhat was absolutely stunned. It was a mixed feeling of shock and thrill. He was uncomfortable and perspiring. If accepted, all his problems would vanish instantly and he may be rewarded for securing the much awaited tender and thereby boosting company's sales and financial health. He was in a fix as to the future course of action. He was wonder-struck at the guts of Subhash Verma in having surreptitiously removing his own company papers and offering to the rival company for a job. Being an experienced person, he was examining the pros and cons of the proposal/situation and he asked him to come the next day. (a) Discuss the ethical issues involved in the case. (b) Critically examine the options available to Prabhat in the above situation. (c) Which of the above would be the most appropriate for Prabhat and why?.

UPSC IAS Mains 2022 General Studies (Paper – 4)

Being the Vice- President (Marketing) of the company, it is the responsibility of Prabhat to promote both the financial as well as ethical well-being of the company for its sustainable long-term growth.

Ethical issues involved-

- Cut-throat pressure in corporate world to increase profits for the company at any cost.
- Conflict of interest being faced by Prabhat between professional and personal integrity vs Profit.
- Mental agony faced by Prabhat due to familial responsibilities.
- Subhash's lack of integrity (leaking of files of earlier company).
- Work ethics at stake.
- Valuing merit of the candidate even with compromised integrity and value system.

Options available to Prabhat

1. To appoint Subhash

■ **Merits**

- Profit for company by defeating rival company
- Talented person, asset for company
- Personal benefit as it can secure his job by helping to get contract

■ **Demerits**

- Actions guided by vice of greed
- Crisis of conscience for Prabhat
- Compromised work ethics
- Lack of self-confidence to clinch deal on merits

2. Not to appoint Subhash

■ **Merits**

- Prabhat as man of integrity
- Self-confidence to get deal on merits
- Set a good precedent

■ **Demerits**

- company might lose the deal
- Prabhat might lose the job

3. Not to appoint Subhash but taking papers from him

■ **Merits**

- Might help in securing the deal for company
- Securing his job

■ **Demerits**

- Poor integrity and leadership qualities
- Compromised work ethics
- Reputation of company might tarnish if in future these facts come into light

The most appropriate option for Prabhat is option 2 i.e., rejecting the candidature of Subhash and his offer to supply bid papers of rival company. Being the Vice-President, it is duty of Prabhat to think of long-term gains and sustainable and ethical growth of the company rather than getting swayed by short term gains and short cuts to success which might bring more harm to the company in the future. *Firstly*, Prabhat needs to have confidence in his abilities to secure the deal on merits for his company. *Secondly*, there is no guarantee that Subhash, if appointed, in future will not harm Prabhat's company for his personal benefit as he is a man of poor integrity. Thus, ethical route to profits for the company is the right choice and will surely bear fruits in long run.

In contemporary world, corporate sector's contribution in generating wealth and employment is increasing. In doing so, they are bringing in unprecedented onslaught on the climate, environmental sustainability and living conditions of human beings. In this background, do you find that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is efficient and sufficient enough to fulfil the social roles and responsibilities needed in the corporate world for which the CSR is mandated? Critically examine. UPSC IAS Mains 2022 General Studies (Paper – 4)

Globally, the corporate sector is the main contributor in GDP and employment generation. However, it does have Negative Externalities such as pollution, Global warming and Climate Change, in formalization of workforce.

In this backdrop, although Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) focusing on Ensuring environmental sustainability, skill development, empowering women, etc have been very beneficial to society (e.g., Tata's Project MANSI, Mahindra's Nanhi Kali.), yet this alone is not sufficient enough to fulfil the social responsibilities needed in the corporate world:

Issues and concerns:

- **Post-Mortem Approach:** for e.g., a company earning profit by damaging environment and later on uses some percentage of profit to plant trees; this is not a sustainable practice. Company should shift to green ways of generating profit at first place.
- Poor Intent: purpose is many a times merely to build the brand image, not a sense of responsibility.
- Only medium and large corporate houses are involved in CSR activities,
- Responsible growth and an adherence to the tenets of sustainability in all business operations is the way out.

Thus, need of hour is to move beyond corporate social responsibility to corporate social accountability, track the progress of interventions, share best practices, also the ideal of sustainable and compassionate capitalism as put forward by Narayan Murthy.

The Supreme Court has banned mining in the Aravalli Hills to stop degradation of the forest cover and to maintain ecological balance. However, the stone mining is still prevalent in the border district of the affected State with connivance of certain corrupt forest officials and politicians. Young and dynamic SP who was recently posted in the affected district promised to himself to stop this menace. In one of his surprise checks with his team, he found loaded truck with stone trying to escape the mining area. He tried to stop the truck but the truck driver overran the police officer, killing him on the spot and thereafter managed to flee. Police filed an FIR but no breakthrough was achieved in the case for almost three months. Ashok who was the Investigative Journalist working with leading TV channel, suo moto started investigating the case. Within one month, Ashok got breakthrough by interacting with local people, stone mining masia and government officials. He prepared his investigative story and presented it to the CMD of the TV channel. He exposed in his investigative report the complete nexus of the stone mafia working with the blessing of corrupt police and civil officials and politicians. The politician who was involved in the mafia was no one else but a local MLA who was considered to be very close to the Chief Minister. After going through the investigative report, the CMD advised Ashok to drop the idea of making the story public through electronic media. He informed that the local MLA was not only the relative of the owner of the TV channel but also had unofficially 20 percent share in the channel. The CMD further informed Ashok that his further promotion and hike in pay will be taken care of in addition the soft loan of 10 lakhs which he has taken from the TV channel for his son's chronic disease will be suitably adjusted if he hands over the investigative report to him.

- What are the options available to Ashok to cope up with the situation?
- Critically evaluate/examine each of the options identified by Ashok.
- What are the ethical dilemmas being faced by Ashok?
- Which of the options, do you think, would be the most appropriate for Ashok to adopt and why?
- (e) In the above scenario, what type of training would you suggest for police officers posted to such districts where stone mining illegal activities are rampant?

UPSC IAS Mains 2022 General Studies (Paper – 4)

The case study deals with the issue of illegal mining and associated law and order menace. It also involves journalistic ethics, collusive corruption, Mining mafia and politician nexus, ecological balance, ensuring compliance to Hon. Supreme Court order.

Options

Options	Merits	Demerits
A. Follow the advice of CMD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Salary hike and promotion. 2. Soft loan will be passed for treatment of son's chronic disease. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loss of conscience. 2. Injustice with the SP. 3. Loss of free media.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| B. Make the report public | 1. Ashok's popularity as a journalist will increase.
2. Justice will be given to SP and his family. | 1. May be loss of job.
2. May face death threat from mafia.
3. May be expelled from the job. |
| C. Resign and find other avenues | 1. Ashok's conscience won't be dead.
2. He can publicize the report through YouTube. | 1. No money for son's health treatment. Even he could die.
2. He may be unemployed for some time. |

Ethical dilemmas being faced by Ashok

1. **Personal growth vs Social justice**-He will get salary hike and promotion, but it will be unjust to the SP's family. The criminals will never be punished.
2. **His son's wellbeing vs Free Media**-He will get soft loan for his son's health treatment, but democracy's 4th pillar will be dead.
3. **Corruption vs Justice to SP's family**-The nexus between corrupt politicians and mafias will further grow. In future, police officials will feel under-confident in taking harsh actions.
4. **Nexus vs Morality**-The morality and ethics of Ashok will be dead. In future, more mafias will emerge.

Most Appropriate Option for Ashok

- Option C is most appropriate for Ashoka. He should resign from his post and make the report public by starting his YouTube channel.
- Besides that, he should also apply for job in other media channel also.
- In this way, the truth behind the nexus of media channel, corrupt politicians, civil officials and sand mafia will come to the surface.

Type of training for police officers posted to such districts

- Vehicle driving training module in difficult terrain.
- Training for usage of modern technologies such as drones for surveillance.
- Modern weaponry and training should be provided.
- Standard Operating Procedures for raiding at such sites.
- 24x7 Full support and communication channels from central control room should be there.

India is a democratic country and media is said to be the 4th pillar of democracy. Hence, it is the responsibility of the media to publish the true reports and expose the corrupt people. Media is the one who brings out evidence and only after that judiciary can give judgements.

You have done MBA from a reputed institution three years back but could not get campus placement due to COVID-19 generated recession. However, after a lot of persuasion and series of competitive tests including written and interview, you managed to get a job in a leading shoe company. You have aged parents who are dependent and staying with you. You also recently got married after getting this decent job. You were allotted the Inspection Section which is responsible for clearing the final product. In first one year, you learnt your job well and was appreciated for your performance by the management. The company is doing good business for last five years in domestic market and this year it is decided even to export to Europe and Gulf countries. However, one large consignment to Europe was rejected by their Inspecting Team due to certain poor quality and was sent back. The top management ordered that this consignment to be cleared for the domestic market. As a part of Inspecting Team, you observed the glaring poor quality and brought to the knowledge of the Team Commander. However, the top management advised all the members of the team to overlook these defects as the management cannot bear such a huge loss. Rest of the team members except you promptly signed and cleared the consignment for domestic market, overlooking glaring defects. You again brought to the knowledge of the Team Commander that such consignment, if cleared even for domestic market, will tarnish the image and reputation of the company and will be counter-productive in the long run. However, you were further advised by the top management that if you do not clear the consignment, the company will not hesitate to terminate your services citing certain innocuous reasons. (a) Under the given conditions, what are the options available to you as a member of the Inspecting Team? (b) Critically evaluate each of the options listed by you. (c) What option would you adopt and why? (d) What are the ethical dilemmas being faced by you? (e) What can be the consequences of overlooking the observations raised by the inspecting Team?. UPSC IAS Mains 2022 General Studies (Paper – 4)

The case study deals with the issues of impact of covid on youth, responsibilities of youth towards ailing parents and family, quality of service delivery, corporate culture where profit is preferred over social goals disparity between standards of service in domestic vs international markets.

Stakeholders involved

1. Me as Inspection head in a shoe company.
2. Family members
3. Company management.
4. Brand image.
5. Society at large.

Ethical dilemmas involved

Integrity vs flexibility of working.

1. Transparency and accountability of corporation.
2. Balancing the personal life and the job.
3. Corporate ethics against profiteering.
4. Ends vs means relationship.
5. Relationship with company vs relationship with larger society

(a) Options available as a member of the Inspecting Team.

1. Reluctantly sign the document.
2. Persuade the management to reconsider their decision.
3. Persuade the management to sell the product in clearance sale with a caveat of defective product.
4. Refuse to sign the document.

(b)

■ **Reluctantly sign the document.**

Merit

1. Saves the hard-earned job after covid led recession.
2. Personal responsibilities like family and marriage are taken care of.

Demerit

1. Against my core values of impartiality and fairness.
2. Against the core values of corporation which has good image.
3. Against business ethics.

■ **Persuade the management to reconsider their decision.**

Merit

1. Saves the company from legal proceedings if news comes out.
2. In the era of digital communication and tough competition, such practices do not take time to come out.
3. Equality of treatment with respect to European clients as well as Indian clients.

Demerit

1. Difficult to persuade the higher management as they are prioritizing profit over procedural fairness.
2. If management does not agree, there will be anger against me and I might be isolated.

■ **Persuade the management to sell the product in clearance sale with a caveat of inferior product.**

Merit

1. This can work as a middle path.
2. Only those buyers who are ready to compromise the quality for price will buy the product.
3. Company will be able to recover partial losses.

Demerit

1. Higher management may not agree with this.
2. If management is determined to recover full amount, they may reject the idea.

■ **Refuse to sign the document altogether.**

Merit

1. Will satisfy my values as an individual, a manager and core value of rejecting poor standard product as head of inspection team.

2. Domestic market will be spared from the consumption of rejected consignment.
3. Doing the company, a favor as the product is of glaringly poor quality.

Demerit

1. The job is important for me because of familial responsibilities.
2. May be difficult to find another job in post covid economic recession.

(c) Option taken by me will be

1. First, I will try to persuade the company to reconsider their decision as they are a good brand with high trust of customers.
2. Such consignment, if cleared even for domestic market will tarnish the image and reputation of the company and will be counterproductive in the long run.
3. As a matter of last resort, I would suggest option 3, to recover the input cost partially.
4. In no condition, I will sign the consignment for sale in India.

(d) In this case following are the ethical dilemma: -

1. Personal interest against public interest: - As I can either save my job or perform my duty toward society by recognizing the truth or reveal the truth and lose my job
2. Corporate ethics against profiteering by unethical means as the company wants from me to Clear a wrong consignment and earn profit while neglecting the laws of the land.
3. Choosing hard life by subscribing to the principles of integrity and truthfulness as it can cause me to lose the job or choose an easy life by subscribing to the dictates of the company.
4. End versus means relationship is totally ignored by the company. They foul the rules of corporate ethics and practices in terms of duality of standards for sales of the product in various markets.
5. Relationship with co-worker's and relationship with larger society as revealing truth may Impact my job while not revealing it may cause the loss of larger society and set of standards.

(e) Consequences of overlooking the observations raised by the inspecting Team.

1. Loss of trust in company
2. Tarnishes the social image of the company.
3. Compromised product quality.
4. Loss of revenue for the company
5. Social image tarnished.
6. Financial losses can be recovered, but the image loss cannot be recovered so easily.

Rakesh was working as Joint Commissioner in Transport Department of a city. As a Part of his Job profile, among others, he was entrusted with the task of overseeing the control and functioning of City Transport Department. A case of strike by the drivers' union of City Transport Department over the issue of Compensation to a driver who died on duty while driving the bus came up before him for decision in the matter. He gathered that the driver (deceased) was plying Bus No. 528 which Passed through busy and congested roads of the city. It so happened that near an intersection on the way, there was an accident involving the bus and a car driver by a middle-aged man. It was found that there was altercation between the driver and the car driver. Heated arguments between them led to fight and the driver gave him a blow. Lot of passerbys had gathered and tried to intervene but without success. Eventually, both of them were badly injured and profusely bleeding and were taken to the nearby hospital. The driver succumbed to the injuries and could not be saved. The middle-aged driver's condition was also critical but after a day, he recovered and was discharged. Police had immediately come at the spot of accident and FIR was registered. Police investigation revealed that the quarrel in question was started by the bus driver and he had resorted to physical violence. There was exchange of blows between them. The City Transport Department management is considering of not giving any extra compensation to the driver's (deceased) family. The family is very aggrieved, depressed and agitated against the discriminatory and non-sympathetic approach of the City Transport Department management. The bus driver (deceased) was 52 years of age, was survived by his wife and two school-college going daughters. He was the sole earner of the family. The City Transport Department workers' union took up this case and when found no favorable response from the management, decided to go on strike. The union's demand was two-fold. First was full extra compensation as given to other drivers who died on duty and secondly employment to onefamily member. The strike has continued for 10 days and the deadlock remains. (a) What are the options available to Rakesh to meet the above situation? (b) Critically examine each of the options identified by Rakesh. (c) What are the ethical dilemmas being faced by Rakesh? (d) What course of action would Rakesh adopt to diffuse the above situation. UPSC IAS Mains 2022 General Studies (Paper – 4)

The above case study is an example of dilemma between professional duty and human values. Situation requires a need to strike a balance between ability to uphold professionalism but not to lose our human values.

Stakeholders involved

1. Rakesh as commissioner of transport department.
2. Deceased bus driver.
3. Middle aged man.
4. Driver's union.
5. Family of deceased bus driver.

(a) Options available to Rakesh to meet the above situation.

- (i) Providing compensation to the family.
- (ii) Providing job and compensation to the family.
- (iii) Denying job and compensation to the family.
- (iv) Denying job and compensation to family under the undue pressure of union but find other schemes through which help can be provided to family.

(b) Examination of each option by Rakesh:

i Providing Compensation to the family-

Merit

1. Can be done on compassionate grounds.
2. Compassionate behaviour towards the deceased family, sustenance of family members including daughters.
3. Calms and extends a helping hand to aggrieved family.
4. May end the 10 days strike

Demerit

1. Breakdown of discipline of others.
2. It was the driver who lost his temper as evident in
3. Leniency may encourage such behaviour further.
4. Unfair and unjust demands should not be agreed

ii Providing job and compensation to the family.

Merit

1. This goes beyond mere compassion and creates employment opportunity for the future.
2. Win the loyalty and confidence of the Corporation drivers.
3. Also brings to an end the strike.

Demerit

1. Breakdown of discipline of others.
2. It was the driver who lost his temper as evident in
3. Leniency may encourage such behaviour further.
4. Unfair and unjust demands should not be agreed

iii Denying job and extra compensation to the family.

Merit

1. As evident, the heated argument between driver and car driver took place and driver lost his temper.
2. FIR reveals that quarrel in question was started by the bus driver and he resorted to physical violence.

Demerit

1. Shows inhuman approach towards the family.
2. Driver was the sole bread winner of the family.
3. Family should not be punished for the mistake of
4. Loss of faith in Corporation by other drivers.

iv Denying job and compensation to family under the undue pressure of union but find other schemes through which help can be provided to family.

Merits

1. Shows conviction of character and integrity.
2. It is evident that the driver was at fault, he lost the temper, he not only did jeopardies his own life, but he compromised the lives of others in bus.

3. Union is also wrong here and is exerting undue pressure.
4. While it is evident that the driver was at fault, but it is not correct to punish his family for his wrongdoing, so I will seek and release the PF, and any other schemes in which I can ensure that the education of his daughters is taken care of.

No Demerits

(c) Ethical dilemmas being faced by Rakesh.

1. Conduct of professional duty vs human values
2. Resolution of conflict vs choosing the right thing to do.
3. Showing strength of conviction, withstanding pressure to influence independent judgement.
4. Principle of fairness vs empathy and compassion for the deceased family.

You are appointed as an officer heading the section in Environment Pollution Control Board to ensure compliance and its follow-up. In that region, there were large number of small and medium industries which had been granted clearance you learnt that these industries provide employment to many migrant workers Most of the industrial units have got environmental clearance certificate in their possession. The environmental clearance seeks to curb industries and projects that supposedly hamper environment and living species in the region. But in practice most of these units remain to be polluting units in several ways like air, water and soil pollution. As such, local people encountered persistent health problems. It was confirmed that majority of the industries were violating environmental compliance. You issued notice to all the industrial units to apply for fresh environmental clearance certificate from the competent authority. However, your action met with hostile response from a section of the industrial units, other vested interest persons and a section of the local politicians. The workers also became very hostile to you as they felt that your action would lead to the closure these of industrial units, and the resultant unemployment will lead to insecurity and uncertainty in their livelihood. Many owners of the industries approached you with the plea that you should not initiate harsh action as it would compel them their units, and cause huge Financial loss, shortage of their products in the market. These would obviously add to the sufferings of the labourers and the consumer alike. The labour union also sent you representation requesting against the closure of the units. You simultaneously started receiving threats from unknown corners. You however received supports from some of your colleagues, who advised you to act freely to ensure environmental compliance. Local NGOs also came to your support and they demanded the closure of the polluting units immediately (a) What are the options available to you under the given situation? (b) Critically examine the options listed by you. (c) What type of mechanism would you suggest to ensure environmental compliance? (d) What are the ethical dilemmas you faced in exercising your option?. UPSC IAS Mains 2022 General Studies (Paper – 4)

As an officer a situation always arises where an officer has various options to take a decision but she/he has to take decision which is best for all. Under the given scenario I have two options:

- I can take direct action and close all the industries hampering the environment, without analysing its immediate consequences like unemployment among workers, protests from labour unions, increased health issues due to a decrease in purchasing capacity of medicines, etc.
- The second option is that I would call a meeting with all the owners of the industries and environmental NGOs and talk with them to come to some common ground like setting a limit on using harmful elements and using better alternatives wherever available or possible, and with the help of the NGOs convince the medium industries to take new environmental clearance etc.

(b) In the first option, I am only completing my prescribed duty without analysing its long-term effect. In the immediate effect maybe health problems or pollution will be reduced but in the long term this decision has various other consequences like poverty, health deterioration due to poverty, other indirect environmental issues can happen due to plague etc.

- In the second option, I am considering the issue of everyone. There will be no direct shutdown of industries. Talking with every section of society and coming to the common ground is the best possible method. This may not show a positive result in the short term but in the long term it will reduce pollution without creating protests or unemployment.

(c) The environmental compliances suggested by me would be:

- Dividing industries into two categories, based on their harmful effect on the environment. Then, apply the tighter rules on the most harmful industries.
- Every industry will clean their own waste. And every industry must have water treatment plants.
- Use of sustainable alternative elements for harmful chemicals. And complete stoppage the elements or chemicals which are harming the environment most.
- New environment clearance must be taken by the second category industries (most harmful industries) etc.
- Monetary penalties must be given by the industries that will use the restricted chemicals and pollute the environment above the prescribed limit.

(d) The ethical dilemma which I will face is between the completion of duty and compassion and empathy towards migrant workers. Completion of duty is not would be rational but taking decisions with compassion and empathy toward migrant workers will be rational, moral and ethical. Another ethical dilemma which I will face will be between protecting the environment and protecting jobs.

Evaluate the nature of Bhakti Literature and its contribution to Indian culture. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

Bhakti literature represents the **legacy of a socio-religious reform movement** that prevailed from **8th century to 17th century CE**. It was characterised by **use of local languages** and **socially inclusive** outlook.

Nature of Bhakti literature

1. **Devotional:** Kirtana Ghosha of Shankardeva (Vaishnava devotional songs); Thirumurais (Tamil songs in praise of Shiva) etc.
2. **Non-sectarian:** In Bhakti poems, **Radha-Shyam** is supposed to be the **equivalent of Seeta-Ram**.
3. **Inter-regional appeal:** **Ramacharitsmanas** and **Hanuman Chalisa** written in Awadh gained popularity across the length and breadth of the country
4. **Inter-Religious harmony:** Sufi poetry of **Baba Farid** was incorporated into Sikhs' religious canons.
5. **Unorthodox approach:** Guru Nanak in his poems talked about futility of **unnecessary rituals and pilgrimages**.
6. **Against elitism:** Bhakti literature is marked by use of non-elite elements like **regional dialects**, inclusion of **castes and out-castes**, **anti-ritual**, emphasis on **love for God over respect for Him**.

Contribution to Indian culture

1. **Linguistic Development:** Development of **Marathi**, Punjabi and its script **Gurumukhi**, **Assamese** etc. occurred due efforts of saints like **Tukaram**, **Sikh Gurus**, **Shankaradeva** etc.
2. **Indianisation of Islam** occurred due to the endeavours of the Sufi saints. For example, contributions of Nizamuddin Auliya, Rahim etc.
3. **Music and Dance:** Use of Bhakti literature for devotional singing in **kirtana**, **Qawwali**, devotional dance such as **Sattariya** etc.
4. **Philosophical Growth:** Post-Vedanta ideas were explored by **Madhvacharya** through his **Dvaitadvaita**, **Ramanujacharya** in his **Vishishta Advaita** etc.
5. **Assimilation of various saints**, diverse religious **ideas** promoted **growth in religion**.
6. Emergence of Sects like Sikhism, Kabirpanth etc.

Criticisms

1. The religious and philosophical ideas **did not represent a break from orthodoxy**.
2. It failed to create **any political awakening** in people.
3. It promoted **servility through ideas of devotion**, and sustained hegemony of hierarchical social structure. -

Bhakti literature provided a **breath of relief for masses** under conditions of social and political repression. The **cultural impact was diverse** from music to philosophy and language.

Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahma Samaj. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

When the British came to India, they introduced the English language as well as certain Western ideas. This led to the development of new Indian middle-class intelligentsia, where people like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chand Vidyasagar, Dayanand Saraswati, etc. spread the ideals of liberty, social and economic equality, democracy and justice.

Brahmo Samaj and Raja Ram Mohan Roy

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy is known as the father of Modern India's Renaissance and a tireless social reformer who inaugurated the age of enlightenment and liberal reformist modernisation in India.
- He founded Brahma Sabha in 1828, whose main aim was the worship of the eternal God. However, it was against priesthood, rituals and sacrifices.
- The greatest achievement in the field of social reform was the abolition of Sati in 1829.
- He advocated the abolition of polygamy and wanted women to be educated and given the right to inherit property.
- This led to the emergence of rationalism and enlightenment in India which indirectly contributed to the nationalist movement.
- It was the forerunner of all social, religious and political movements of modern India.

Young Bengal and Henry Lui Vivian Derozio

- Derozio joined the Hindu College of Calcutta as a teacher.
- He promoted radical ideas through his teaching and by organising an association for debate and discussions on literature, philosophy, history and science.
- He inspired his followers and students to question all authority.
- Derozio and his famous followers, known as Young Bengal, were fiery patriots.
- They cherished the ideals of the French Revolution (1789) and the liberal thinking of Britain.

Apart from attacking social evils like bigotry, superstition, untouchability, purdah system, sati, child marriage, social inequalities and illiteracy, the social and religious reform movements also helped in dealing with the racism perpetuated by the colonial rule. This eventually led to the development of nationalism against the British Government.

Assess the main administrative issues and socio-cultural problems in the integration process of Indian Princely States. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

Integration of princely states into India on eve of independence was **crucial last step towards realising the dream** of an independent Republic of India. But the **difference in conditions, issues and aspirations** provided difficulties that **required stoic attention**.

Administrative issues hindered integration of princely states

1. **Territorial Contiguity** or lack of it such as in **Patiala, Kapurthala** etc. which were combined into **PEPSU**, or **Jammu and Kashmir** whose connectivity was threatened due to disruption of **railway and roads** passing through **areas under Pakistan**.
2. **Lapse of British paramountcy** created a lacuna of sovereignty.
3. **Residual Powers:** Princely states **surrendered only rights enumerated** in Instrument of Accession and **retained administrative roles** as rulers.
4. The **question of authority versus popular will** as the legitimate deciding factor divided opinions, such as in Junagadh, Hyderabad and J&K.
5. **Princely Privileges:** The extent of privileges to be retained, nature of compensation and **hierarchy among princes, privy purses** etc. were **points of contention**.
6. **Religious role of Kings** such as of **Travancore in management of Padmanabhaswamy temple** and its assets were complex problems.

Socio-cultural problems existed in integration of Indian princely states

1. **Hyderabad** had problems of **peasant discontent**. For example, the **Telangana movement**.
2. **J&K** had social **discontent against the king**, and a **communal divide in economic status**.
3. There was cultural difference between **Telugu-speaking parts** of Hyderabad and **Urdu-speaking and Marathi speaking** regions.
4. There was **economic divide between regions** to be integrated such as between **Baroda** and other princely states of Saurashtra region.

Integration of Indian princely state is a mark of **administrative statesmanship and socio-cultural integration** of a diverse people with diverse aspirations.

Differentiate the causes of landslides in the Himalayan region and Western Ghats. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

Landslides are the movement of mass of debris, earth or rock, sliding down under the effect of gravity. Landslides are a **common problem across the Himalayas and Western Ghats**. However, the **factors for the two differ**.

Western Ghats

1. **Heavy mining activities** in the western ghat region is a major factor leading to landslides.
2. **Deforestation for settlements** and cutting for **road construction**.
3. Anthropogenic activities gave rise to **anomalous slopes, and due to gravitational pull and rain**, the overlying material comes down.
4. Concentration of **heavy rainfall in concentrated areas**.
5. **Windmill projects** have led to **huge fractures** on the mountains, **loosening structures**.
6. For example, **Ratnagiri, Satara, Idduki etc.**

Himalayan region

1. Himalayas are **young, fragile mountains still growing**, hence susceptible to natural landslides.
2. The sediments in the mountains are not **consolidated, and are loose**.
3. There is **tectonic activity, with the plate moving up** which **causes instability**; hence the landslides can also occur during the dry seasons.
4. The **steep and sharp slope** in the Himalayas are major factors for the landslides in the region.
5. Anthropogenic factors in Himalayas include, **jhum cultivation, deforestation** etc., leading to landslides.
6. For example, **Almora, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag** etc.

Landslide as a challenge has grown in the recent years, due to anthropogenic activities. In this light, along with sustainable development policies, indigenous knowledge should be leveraged. Construction in eco-sensitive zones need to be checked. Recommendations of Kasturirangan/ Madhav Gadgil reports and guidelines of NDMA on landslides need to be followed.

Despite India being one of the countries of Gondwanaland, its mining industry contributes much less to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in percentage. Discuss. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

Despite being a part of Gondwana land, rich in providing minerals such as coal, iron, mica, aluminium, etc., the contribution of the mining sector to India's GDP has been on a steady decline. Contribution by the mining sector to India's GDP is only 1.75%. Whereas other countries like South Africa and Australia contribute 7.5% and 6.99%.

Reasons:

- Mining is harmful from an environmental point of view. There has hardly been a mining project that did not face opposition on this front.
- Several tribal communities and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) fall into the mining zones. Their residence is also threatened by an increase in mining. Their rehabilitation and compensation is another major issue.
- The auction of a mine is a process where the power rests in the hands of State governments. There might exist ambiguity in the case where there are two different political parties in power at the Center and the State.
- There are also issues like technological advancements and availability of cheap funds. Lack of these is the major determinant in poor growth of the mining industry.
- India has majorly been an exporter of raw materials and an importer of finished products made out of those raw materials. As the raw materials are sold at dirt cheap rates, it reflects poorly in the GDP calculations.

The mining sector of India, hold immense potential to reduce import dependence and hurl industrial development. In this light faster administrative clearances need to be ensured and security challenges like Naxalism etc., in the mining belt need to be checked.

What are the environmental implications of the reclamation of the water bodies into urban land use? Explain with examples. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

Land reclamation means creating land either by removing water from muddy areas or raising the level of the land. With an increasing demand for land, it can be a good solution for creating areas for building, agriculture and other uses.

However, it is one of the most consequential fields of human induced environmental transformation and has many environmental consequences such as:

- **Damaged Ecology:** Urban land transformation leads to creation of residential, commercial buildings around water bodies, causing degradation of water ecology and influx of nutrients. Dal Lake and other water bodies in Srinagar are a great example of it. Land reclamation can also change the shape of the seabed and wave patterns leading to changes in the ecosystem.
- **Frequent Floods:** Water bodies act as sponges for rainfall, reclamation of water bodies, has led to higher incidences of floods. Depletion of vegetation, transformation of soil cover to concretised landscape has reduced permeability, increased run-off. The biggest example of it is Mumbai.
- **Extinction of Species:** Land reclamation of wetlands has increased the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) which is detrimental not only for aquatic species but also for aerial fauna.
- **Pollution:** Water bodies have been turned into landfills in several cases. Because of heavy pollution of Hussainsagar Lake, many pollutants get carried into underground water bodies. Though percolation filters many pollutants, open wells or bore wells receive certain pollutants causing groundwater pollution.

Water bodies not only support high concentrations of biodiversity, but also offer a wide range of important resources and ecosystem services like food, water, fiber, groundwater recharge, water purification, flood moderation, storm protection, erosion control, carbon storage and climate regulation. Hence their conservation is an imperative.

Mention the global occurrence of volcanic eruptions in 2021 and their impact on regional environment. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

A volcano is an opening or rupture in the earth's surface that allows magma (hot liquid and semi-liquid rock), volcanic ash and gases to escape. The volcanic eruption could have implications for the local and regional environment like earthquake, landslides, lahars (mudflows), ash and thunderstorms. 2021 witnessed several volcanic eruptions viz. Mount Sinabung (Indonesia); Klyuchevskoy (Kamchatka, Russia); Fournaise (Réunion); Mount Etna (Italy); and Erebus (Antarctica).

Impact of volcanic eruption on the environment:

- Volcanic eruptions are responsible for forming new rock on the Earth's surface.
- The gases and dust particles thrown into the atmosphere during volcanic eruptions have influences on climate.
- Volcanoes have also caused global warming over millions of years during times in Earth's history when extreme amounts of volcanism occurred, releasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
- Even though volcanoes are in specific places on Earth, their effects can be more widely distributed as gases, dust, and ash get into the atmosphere
- Volcanic eruptions are generally preceded by increased seismic activity.

Most of the active volcanoes on earth occur on the Circum-Pacific Belt, also referred to as the Ring of Fire. Volcanoes are a natural exogenic phenomenon that cannot be avoided, but developing disaster risk resilience will surely be a step in the right direction.

Why is India considered as a subcontinent? Elaborate your answer. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

- The Indian subcontinent, or simply the subcontinent, is a physiographic region in South Asia. It is situated on the Indian Plate, projecting southwards into the Indian Ocean from the Himalayas.
- Geologically, the Indian subcontinent is related to the landmass that drifted from the supercontinent Gondwana during the Cretaceous and merged with the Eurasian landmass nearly 55 million years ago. Geographically, it is the peninsular region in South-Central Asia, delineated by the Himalayas in the north, the Hindu Kush in the west, and the Arakanese in the east.
- This natural physical landmass in South Asia has been relatively isolated from the rest of Eurasia. The Himalayas (from Brahmaputra River in the east to Indus River in the west), Karakoram (from Indus River in the east to Yarkand River in the west) and the Hindu Kush mountains (from Yarkand River westwards) form its northern boundary. The Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea form the boundary of the Indian subcontinent in the south, south-east and south-west.

- Moreover, India's high population and its multiple races, religions, castes, languages, customs make it look like a small continent like the subcontinent. The diversity is largely a result of physical aspects of the land itself, which in turn shaped historical events such as migrations and invasions. However, in spite of numerous differences, at the root there are numerous similarities in the socio-cultural-economic way of life.

Examine the uniqueness of tribal knowledge systems when compared with mainstream knowledge and cultural systems. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

Tribal knowledge systems represent **inter-generational wisdom in band societies** passed on to the present times through **centuries of experience and learnings**. While similar characteristics can be seen in evolution of mainstream knowledge and culture, **tribal knowledge systems are unique due to following reasons:**

1. Tribal societies have **contemporary knowledge of nature** due to continued closeness to forests, flora and fauna. **Mainstream societies** have moved on to **agricultural** basis of society, and their cultural knowledge represents **impressions of their tribal past, which no longer exists**.
2. While **mainstream knowledge systems** are based on **rigorous refining and questioning** of ideas through discussions and scientific verification, **tribal methods** are based on **conservation of knowledge**. For example, the awareness among **tribals of Andaman & Nicobar** about a wall of sea helped them against **Tsunami in 2004**.
3. Tribal knowledge systems are stored in **songs and stories**, while mainstream knowledge is preserved in **books and recordings**.
4. Tribal knowledge systems promote **integrated learning** for the community. In **mainstream** society, knowledge and traditions have bifurcated, with **traditions becoming a subject of study instead of mode of studying**.
5. Tribal knowledge systems are **non-exclusionary** and **marked by equity**. Mainstream knowledge systems are mired in barriers like **cost of education, patent protections, social exclusion etc**.

Tribal and mainstream societies are **not mutually exclusive systems**. Constant interaction and mutual dependence have enriched both. The way forward should be based on mixture of **mutual learning and preservation** through **salad bowl model instead of assimilation**. Recent initiatives like India's **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library** initiative or the Nehruvian model of **Tribal Panchsheel** are some other approaches.

Examine the role of 'Gig Economy' in the process of empowerment of women in India.
UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

A **gig economy** is a **free market system** in which **temporary positions** are common and organizations hire **independent workers** for **short-term commitments**.

Gig economy can help in **process of empowerment of women** in India in following ways:

1. Gig employment allows **part-time work** and **flexible working hours** which allows women to **balance** their **traditional roles** (homemakers and care giver) with employment.
2. Gig employment complemented by work-from-home (WFH) and technology has **addressed the issue of safety during travel and night shifts**. Also, new employment opportunities for women in tier 2 and 3 cities have emerged.
3. It provides women with **on-demand work** allowing her **join and drop-out of work force** as per her own will.
4. Gig employment helps women **earn extra income, boosted her confidence** and gives **decision making power** all of which are important component of women empowerment.

However, gig economy comes with its own set of **constraints** such as:

1. Gig economy works purely on **market principle of demand and supply**. It views humans just as another resource. **Easily replaceable low skill gig laborers** are **exploited** by employers. There is also lack of certainty regarding availability of work and stability of career.
2. **Lack of benefits**: Flexi-workers usually are not entitled to **minimum wages, insurances, PF, retirement plans, paid leave, maternity benefits, etc.**
3. **Pay difference**: Permanent employees have a **grade-pay** plus benefits like travel allowance, etc. Gig workers are paid strictly as per the amount of work.
4. **Restricted growth**: Low skill gig workers **cannot move-up** the **organizational hierarchy** and not considered for promotions.

Gig economy can be a step towards increasing female labour force participation and women empowerment. But, in long run, **predictable and formal employment with opportunities of upskilling** is required.

To what extent did the role of the moderates prepare a base for the wider freedom movement? Comment. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

The first phase of the existence of the Congress is known as the moderate phase (1885-1905). During this, the Congress worked for limited objectives and concentrated more on building up its organisation. The leaders like Dadabhai Nauroji, P.N. Mehta, D.E. Wacha, W.C. Banerji, S.N. Banerji, Gopal Krishna Gokhale were staunch believers in liberalism and moderate politics and came to be labelled as moderates.

The main objective of the Moderates was to achieve self-government within the British Empire. They believed in patience and reconciliation rather than in violence and confrontation, thus relying on constitutional and peaceful methods in order to achieve their aims. They organised annual sessions with delegates participating from all parts of the country. After the discussions, resolutions were adopted which were forwarded to the Government for its information and appropriate action.

Success/contributions of moderates:

- They represented the most progressive forces of the time.
- They were able to create a wide national awakening of all Indians having common interests and the need to rally around a common programme against a common enemy, and above all, the feeling of belonging to one nation.
- They trained people in political work and popularised modern ideas.
- They exposed the basically exploitative character of colonial rule, thus undermining its moral foundations.
- Their political work was based on hard realities, and not on shallow sentiments, religion, etc.
- They were able to establish the basic political truth that India should be ruled in the interest of Indians.
- They created a solid base for a more vigorous, militant, mass-based national movement in the years that followed.

The early nationalists did a great deal to awaken the national sentiment, even though they could not draw the masses to them and failed to widen their democratic base and the scope of their demands. Moderates wanted to educate people in modern politics, to arouse national and political consciousness and to create a united public opinion on political questions. Their critics often accuse them for using methods of beggary through prayers and petitions.

However, had they adopted revolutionary or violent methods, they would have been crushed right in the infancy of the Congress. They created a solid base for a more vigorous, militant, mass-based national movement in the following years. The Moderates thus were prudent in using the constitutional and peaceful methods to handle British rule.

Bring out the constructive programmes of Mahatma Gandhi during Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

Gandhi's comprehensive plan of national regeneration, which he named the constructive programme, aimed at establishing social order, based on truth and non-violence. Gandhi believed that foreign domination in India lived and prospered because of our negligence towards fundamental duties as a nation. Collective fulfilment of these duties can be referred to as the constructive programme.

Constructive programme during Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement:

- **Communal Unity:** According to Gandhi, communal unity does not merely mean political unity but should be an unbreakable unity of hearts. This was achieved during the Lucknow Pact 1916, whereby both the Indian National Congress and Muslim League joined hands against British rule.
- **Removal of Untouchability:** Gandhi held that untouchability was a blot and curse upon Indian society. Gandhi endeavoured to abolish this evil. He founded 'Harijan Sevak Sangh' for the abolition of untouchability in 1932 after his Poona Pact.
- **Khadi Making:** Gandhi presented Khadi as a symbol of nationalism, economic freedom, equality and self-reliance. Khadi takes the central place in the upliftment of the village economy, which eventually lead to the attainment of Gram Swaraj.
- **New or Basic Education:** Gandhi's concept of new education implies that nature, society and crafts are huge mediums of education. According to him, true education is that which draws out and stimulates the spiritual, intellectual and physical faculties of the children. This education ought to be for them, a kind of insurance against unemployment.
- **Upliftment of Women:** In his mission of Swaraj, Gandhi needed the cooperation of women, kisans, labourers and students. It was only due to Gandhi's efforts that women came out of their houses for the first time in history and participated in the Indian political struggle.

Integration of Indian society was perhaps more difficult than the achievement of freedom because, in this process, there existed a possibility of conflict between groups and classes of our own people. In this scenario, the Gandhian constructive role played a key role in nation building.

“There arose a serious challenge to the Democratic State System between the two World Wars.” Evaluate the statement. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

The period between two world wars was relatively short, yet featured many significant social, political, and economic changes throughout the world. Politically, the era coincided with the rise of communism, starting in Russia with the October Revolution and Russian Civil War, at the end of World War I.

Threats to democratic system

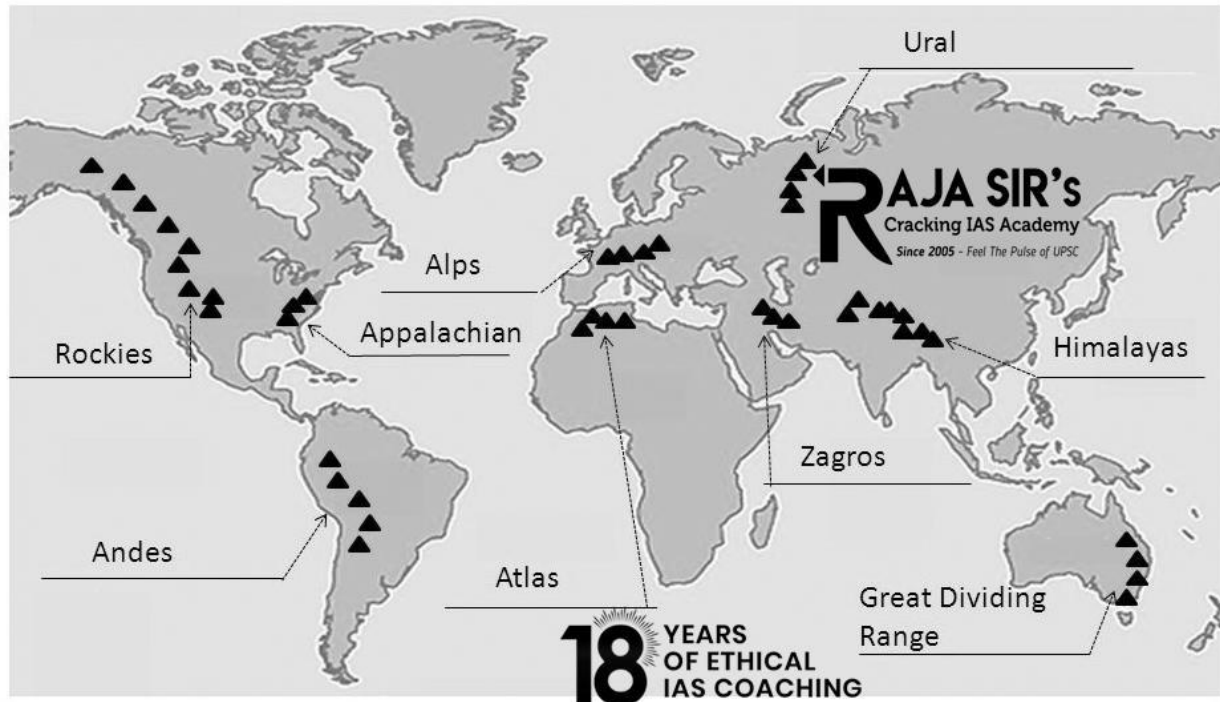
- The conditions of economic hardship caused by the Great Depression brought about significant social unrest around the world, leading to a major surge of fascism and in many cases, the collapse of democratic governments.
- In the 1930s the breakdown of the League of Nations, the rise of aggressive dictatorships posed a serious threat to democracy throughout the world.
- After the Nazis took power and implemented their anti-semitic ideology and policies, the Jewish community was increasingly persecuted. In 1936, Jews were banned from all professional jobs, effectively preventing them from participating in education, politics, higher education and industry.
- The Spanish Civil War, (1936–39) was a military revolt against the Republican government of Spain, supported by conservative elements within the country. When an initial military coup failed to win control of the entire country, a bloody civil war ensued.
- The name most commonly given to a far-right movement and political party in Romania in the period from 1927 into the early part of World War II. It was ultra-nationalist, anti-semitic, anti-communist, anti-capitalist, and promoted the Orthodox Christian faith. Its members were called “Greenshirts” because of the predominantly green uniforms they wore.
- Fascism also expanded its influence outside Europe, especially in East Asia, the Middle East, and South America. In China, Wang Jingwei's Kai-tsu p'ai (Reorganization) faction of the Kuomintang (Nationalist Party of China) supported Nazism in the late 1930s.

The efforts of the League of Nations failed to maintain peace after the first world war. Eventually, Hitler's invasion of Poland in September 1939 drove Great Britain and France to declare war on Germany, marking the beginning of World War II.

Briefly mention the alignment of major mountain ranges of the world and explain their impact on local weather conditions, with examples. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

Mountain range refers to a series of ridges which originated in the same age and underwent the same processes. The most prominent or characteristic feature of mountain ranges is their long and narrow extension.

Mountain ranges and their influence



■ Andes Mountain Range:

- The range stretches from north to south through seven countries in South America, along the west coast of the continent: Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina.
- Because the Andes act as a large wall between the Pacific Ocean and the continent, they have a tremendous impact on weather in the region.
- The northern part of the Andes is typically rainy and warm, and the weather is also wet in the eastern part of central Andes, and the area to the southwest.
- To the west, the dry climate is dominated by the Atacama Desert in northern Chile. The mountains form a rain cover over the eastern plains of Argentina, which have extremely dry weather.

■ The Himalayas:

- The Himalayan mountain ranges are stretched over the northern borders of India. These mountain ranges run in a west-east direction from the Indus to the Brahmaputra. The Himalaya consists of 3 parallel ranges in its longitudinal extent.

- The mountain range in Asia separates the plains of the Indian subcontinent from the Tibetan Plateau.
- The Himalayas have a profound effect on the climate of the Indian subcontinent and the Tibetan Plateau. They prevent frigid, dry winds from blowing south into the subcontinent, which keeps South Asia much warmer than corresponding temperate regions in the other continents.
- **Rockies Mountain Range:**
 - These are massive mountain ranges that stretch from Canada to central New Mexico.
- These cast a fairly substantial rain shadow - a dry area on the leeward side of the mountain range, where wind does not hit, which forms because the mountains block rain-producing weather systems and create a metaphorical shadow of dryness.
- Wet weather systems begin in the Pacific Ocean and travel over the western states to the Rocky Mountains, and as the air moves higher up the western slope it cools and condenses, leaving rain and snow along the mountainside in its wake.
- Having been stripped of moisture, the air continues over the Rocky Mountains and dries out as it moves down the eastern slope. Because the air is now dry, it absorbs moisture from the landscape, leaving the earth more arid.
- Essentially, the rain shadow is a desert forced into existence because of the mountain range it borders, which prevents the eastern slopes and foothills from experiencing the same moisture that falls on the western side of the range.
- **Great Dividing Range:**
 - It runs roughly parallel to the east coast of Australia and forms the fifth-longest land-based mountain chain in the world, and the longest entirely within a single country.
- The Great Dividing Range blocks the flow of moist air coming from the Tasman Sea. This creates rain over the range and reduces the amount of rainfall in inland regions west of the range.
- **Atlas Mountains:**
 - The Atlas Mountains extend some 2,500 km across north-western Africa, spanning Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. The mountain range separates the Mediterranean and Atlantic coastlines from the Sahara Desert.
- Westerly winds from the Atlantic Ocean carry moisture into the region, but the mountains act as a weather barrier between the coastal grasslands and wetlands and the Sahara Desert.
- The Atlas Range causes a rain shadow effect, preventing the areas beyond the mountains from receiving much rainfall. During the winter months, the highest peaks of the Atlas Mountains are among the few parts of Africa to see snow.
- **The Ural Mountains:**
 - It extends from the Kara Sea to the Kazakh Steppe along the border of Kazakhstan. Geographically, this range marks the northern part of the border between Europe and Asia.

- The northern side of the mountain range receives cool, rainy weather, while the southern side is a hot desert.
- The western side of the mountain range receives warm continental winds, while the eastern side is much cooler and drier.

The mountain ranges of the world provide essential ecosystem-based services to global communities as well as inspiration and enjoyment to millions. These are particularly important for their biodiversity, water, clean air, research, cultural diversity, leisure, landscape and spiritual values.

How do the melting of the Arctic ice and glaciers of the Antarctic differently affect the weather patterns and human activities on the Earth? Explain. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

Arctic is an ocean covered by **thin layers of perennial sea ice** and surrounded by land while **Antarctica is a continent** covered by very **thick ice cap**. The melting of ice and glaciers in the two affects the **weather pattern and human activities differently as seen below:**

Arctic

- **Warming of the Arctic** has seen to be related by the scientists to **slowing of the jet stream**, and its **looping southwards**.
- Melting of ice in Arctic has made **the ENSO cycle erratic**, and **higher emergence of El-nino** events.
- Melting of Arctic ice is linked to **Central Pacific Trade wind intensification**, **weakening of extra-tropical cyclones**.
- Melting of Arctic ice will lead to **extreme weather events** in the middle latitudes.
- Melting of Arctic ice might lead to **opening of North Sea** route for global trade, saving both time and cost.
- Reduced opportunities for the **native population** for

Antarctic

- **Melting of glaciers** in Antarctic will lead to **slowing of Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation**, disrupting gulf stream.
- The warming of Antarctic will cause **colder winters and hotter summers** in North Atlantic.
- Melting of Antarctic glaciers is linked with **extreme weather events in Europe**.
- The warming of **Antarctica Circumpolar Current** can aggravate the effects of global warming.
- Melting of Antarctic glaciers could **raise the sea levels substantially**, affecting the **people on SIDS**.
- Melting of Antarctic glaciers will **enhance the incidences of coastal erosion and storm**

subsistence hunting, fishing and herding.

- **Rise in temperature is likely to cause physiological stress** in people adapted to be living in cooler climates.

surges, causing **loss of life/livelihood for the coastal people.**

The melting of ice and glaciers in Arctic and Antarctic will **have irreversible consequences** for the humans as well as the global weather patterns. The need of the hour is to **adopt sustainable approach** to minimise the effects of global warming.

Discuss the multi-dimensional implications of uneven distribution of mineral oil in the world. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

Petroleum is unevenly distributed around the planet. The Middle East contains slightly less than half of the world's proven reserves (including Iran but not North Africa). Following the Middle East are Canada and the United States, Latin America, Africa, and the former Soviet Union region, which includes Russia, Kazakhstan, and other countries.

The immense strategic importance of mineral oil and its lop-sided distribution across the globe have many multi-dimensional implications:

- *Political*: Many historical and present-day conflicts involve nations trying to control resource-rich territories. For example, the desire for diamond and oil resources has been the root of many armed conflicts in Africa. *USA's interference* in the geopolitics of West Asia is also one of the reasons for uneven distribution of oil minerals.
- *Employment & Migration*: Availability of Oil reserves leads to more job opportunities in the Middle east. That is the reason why India has a large diaspora in the middle east.
- *Balance of Trade*: The un-even distribution of the mineral oil resources affects the balance of trade between the importing and the exporting countries. This in turn affects the Foreign-exchange reserves of the country.
- *Growth*: Un-even distribution of mineral oil also has led to un-even growth across the globe. Rise in import prices directly hamper the capabilities of the government to spend on welfare objectives.
- *Energy Security*: The un-even distribution of the mineral energy resource has led to high degree of energy insecurity in the oil deficient countries. It also, directly affects their strategic autonomy.
- *Diplomatic leverage*: The lop- sided distribution of the vital mineral oil resource is a vital factor in leveraging its availability for diplomatic gains. For example, India's major dependence on Middle East for oil, provides it with a diplomatic bargain over India.

- *Economic implications:* Uneven distribution of the mineral oil across the world, leads to economic consequences like inflation, for the importing country. For example, India is susceptible to global shocks in oil prices.
- *Regional conflict:* As the mineral oil resource is strategic in nature, its uneven distribution leads to great power conflict over the control of the region. For example, disputes in oil rich regions of middle East.

As the uneven distribution of the mineral oil resources leads to various implications ranging from economic to energy security. This highlights the need for India to diversify its energy basket both in terms of content and geography.

What are the main socio-economic implications arising out of the development of IT industries in major cities of India?. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

Information technology is an example of a general-purpose technology that has the potential to play an important role in economic growth, as well as other dimensions of economic and social development. The IT industry accounted for around 8% of India's GDP in 2020.

However, IT industries in India are concentrated in a few major cities like Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, etc. This, though boosted the economy around the cities, has imprinted wider socio-economic implications.

Socio-economic implications of development of IT industry:

- **Uneven development and Economic Disparity:** The major cities with large IT hubs are developing faster than the semi urban and Tier I, II cities. There is also a huge wage gap between IT workers and other workers.
- **Accentuating Digital Divide:** Given the importance of industries, the hosting cities attract most of the developmental activities. To illustrate, lack of infrastructure in rural areas impede the access to essential services, impacting their socio-economic development.
- **Increased Migration and Cultural Change:** The youth migrate from rural areas and small cities to the major IT cities leaving their parents alone and needy for social and emotional support. This is leading to breakdown of joint family culture and more nuclear family culture is emerging in India.

India's technology services industry can achieve USD 300-350 billion in annual revenue by 2025 if it can exploit the fast-emerging business potential in cloud, artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity and other emerging technologies. Though we need to invest in such technologies, this investment should be evenly distributed and not centred to a few locations. For example, the IT-BPO industries can be established in North East cities and Tier 1 and 2 cities. We can only become a knowledge economy if the developments are even and inclusive

Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

The total number of people living in a particular place, at a particular time, is known as a population. Population Education can be defined as a process of developing awareness and understanding of the population situation among people and making them more responsible towards managing the population.

Objectives of Population Education is to develop and understanding of

- Demographic concepts and processes.
- Influence of population trends on the various aspects of human life - social, cultural, political and economic.
- Close interaction of population growth and the developmental process with particular reference to development programmes for raising the standard of living of people.
- Evil effects of overpopulation on the environment and the concomitant dangers from pollution.
- Scientific and medical advancement enabling to get an increasing control over famines, diseases and death and the imbalance thus created between death rate and birth rate.
- Biological factors and phenomenon of reproduction which are responsible for continuance of the species.

Population Education in India:

- India became one of the first developing countries to come up with a state-sponsored family planning programme in the 1950s. A population policy committee was established in 1952. In 1956, a Central Family Planning Board was set up and its focus was on sterilisation. In 1976, GoI announced the first National Population Policy.
- The National Population Policy, 2000 envisaged achieving a stable population for India. One of its immediate objectives is to address the unmet needs for contraception, health care infrastructure, and personnel and provide integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care.
- National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India.
- The beginning of population education in India can be traced to the third Five Year Plan (1961-66). Realising the potential of education in tackling the problems of growing rate of population, a Population Education Programme was launched in 1980 to introduce Population Education in the formal education system.

The family welfare program over the last five decades with holistic approach towards population control have made significant contributions, but the necessity for the intervention of educational efforts to bring appropriate social transformations so as to promote population stabilisation and ensure quality of life can never be denied. The universities and other educational institutions can play a vital role by providing adequate knowledge and necessary awareness in relevant areas.

What is Cryptocurrency? How does it affect global society? Has it been affecting Indian society also?. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

A cryptocurrency is a digital currency designed to work as a medium of exchange through a computer network that is not reliant on any central authority, such as a government or bank, to uphold or maintain it. It is a digital or virtual currency that is secured by cryptography, which makes it nearly impossible to counterfeit or double-spend.

Cryptocurrency affects society in following ways:

- Bringing the next level of globalisation as the cryptocurrency is digital currency and easily available across the international borders.
- Emergence of one currency for the countries of the world which are decentralised and not related to any country. This may make fiat money redundant in the future.
- Cryptocurrencies are way cheaper to use to execute international transactions making transactions faster and accurate, there are less chances of fraud. It has made it easier for entrepreneurs to reach international markets.
- However, it takes away the sovereign power of issuing currency. Thus, making economic policy of the government ineffective. It also makes capital more volatile posing risk to macroeconomic stability.
- Use of cryptocurrency by terrorist organisations, drug cartels etc. negatively impacts the global society and the anonymity of its use has potential to increase crime.

India is the largest receiver of remittances. However, people lose money on conversion, processing charges, and switching to crypto will help people to get rid of these expenses. But in the era of digital currency, those who are not able to afford technology are devoid of such digital currency. In 2018, The RBI issued a circular preventing all banks from dealing in cryptocurrencies. This circular was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in May 2020. Recently, the government has announced to introduce a bill to create a sovereign digital currency and simultaneously ban all private cryptocurrencies. Blockchain and crypto assets will be an integral part of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Indians should not be made to simply bypass it. The framework on cryptocurrencies should be developed which will require global partnerships and collective strategies.

How does Indian society maintain continuity in traditional social values? Enumerate the changes taking place in it.. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 1)

The essence of Indian society lies in harbouring diverse and distinct identities, ethnicities, languages, religions, and culinary preferences. History stands witness to the fact that the societies that have struggled to hold differences were shattered in such an attempt.

The supreme social-cultural traditional values of Indian life have been the values of:

- **A Cosmic Vision:** The framework of Indian culture places human beings in the centre of the universe, as a divine creation-which celebrates individuality and differences of opinion in society.
- **Tolerance:** In India, tolerance and liberalism are found for all religions, castes, communities, etc. Indian society accepted and respected various religions and ensured that there is a peaceful co-existence of religions.
- **Sense of Harmony:** Indian philosophy and culture try to achieve innate harmony and order in society.
- **Continuity and Stability:** The light of ancient Indian culture life is yet glowing. Many invasions occurred, many rulers changed, many laws were passed but even today, the traditional institutions, religion, epics, literature, philosophy, traditions, etc. are alive.
- **Adaptability:** It is the process of changing according to time, place, and period. Indian society has shown fluidity and has adjusted itself with changing times.
- **Caste System and Hierarchy:** Indian Society has evolved systems of social stratification, which in the past helped in accommodating outsiders, but concomitantly it has also been the reason for discrimination and prejudice.
- **Unity in Diversity:** Despite inherent differences, Indian society celebrates unity in diversity which reflects in modern India's founding principles and constitutional ideals.

In recent times, Indian society has seen a surge in multiple divisive issues like:

- **Casteism:** Caste-based discrimination leads society to divide into artificial groups which sometimes even led to violence.
- **Communalism:** The aggressive attitude of one community towards the other creates tension and clashes between the two. It poses a great challenge to democracy and the unity of our country.
- **Nuclear Families:** The new trend of nuclear families with one or a maximum of two children has emerged in India. Due to this children are not able to get the presence of the elderly who plays a major role in instilling values among the younger ones.
- **Gender Discrimination:** There is a need for India to closely examine the norms that allow violence and a broader pattern of gender discrimination to continue. A society that does not value women as much as men fail to reach its full potential.

Despite all these reasons, India remains a diverse country, a bewildering mosaic of communities of all kinds. Our peculiar societal genius is to fashion a form of coexistence

where diversity can flourish and find its place. The principle of “*Sarva Dharma Sambhava*” (equal respect for all religions) is rooted in India’s tradition and culture.

‘Constitutional Morality’ is rooted in the Constitution itself and is founded on its essential facets. Explain the doctrine of ‘Constitutional Morality’ with the help of relevant judicial decisions. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 2)

Constitutional morality in its strictest sense implies a strict and complete adherence to the constitutional principles as enshrined in the various segments of the document. It is required that all constitutional functionaries to “cultivate and develop a spirit of constitutionalism” where every action taken by them is governed by and is in strict conformity with the basic tenets of the Constitution. The concept of Constitutional Morality is present in the constitutional scheme, particularly in the Preamble, Part III (fundamental rights) and Part IV (Directive Principles of State policy).

In practice, constitutional morality is evident in various well-established rights that emanate from the Constitution, and include among others:

- Rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Right to equality
- Freedom of choice and expression
- Social justice
- Due process of law
- Procedure established by law

Society doesn’t remain static, the changes that occur lead to new scenarios, and thus, the law and the constitutional setup have to keep up with the same. This aspect can be clearly understood through judicial pronouncements like *Navtej Johar & Ors v. Union of India*, where the Supreme Court provided for an elaborate mechanism to affirm the rights of people who do not conform with a particular gender, thus ensuring their life, liberty, dignity and identity.

Constitutional Morality as per various Supreme Court Judgements

1. **Government of NCT of Delhi Vs. Union of India** – All high functionaries need to follow constitutional morality and protect the constitutional values spelt out by the Constitution. Constitutional Morality acts as check on arbitrary use of power by high functionaries.
2. **Navtej Singh Johar & Ors. Vs. Union of India** – Supreme Court opined that Section 377 violates the right of members of the LGBTQI community on the bedrock of the principles enunciated in Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution [dignity of individuals]
3. **Naz Foundation case**, the Supreme Court opined that only Constitutional Morality and not Public Morality should prevail

4. **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy & Anr. Vs. Union of India & Ors.** – SC upheld the constitutional validity of Aadhaar subject to certain limitations. Constitutional Morality ensures courts must neutralize the excesses of power by the executive and strike down any legislation or even executive action if it is unconstitutional.
5. **Indian Young Lawyer's Association v. State of Kerala [Sabrimala Case]**– SC opined that constitutional morality which includes values like justice, liberty, equality and fraternity ought to be preferred over customary values, traditions and beliefs. It allowed the entry of women into sabrimala temple irrespective of their ages. [fighting perception, stereotype and prejudices]

Constitutional morality is crucial for constitutional laws to be effective. Without constitutional morality, the operation of the constitution tends to become arbitrary, erratic and capricious.

Discuss the desirability of greater representation to women in the higher judiciary to ensure diversity, equity and inclusiveness. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 2)

Status of representation of Women in Higher Judiciary

1. There has never been a women Chief Justice of India.
2. SC was established in 1950. First female SC judge was appointed in 1989.
3. Of the 256 Supreme Court judges appointed in the past 71 years, only 11 (or 4.2%) have been women. The representation of women is more in lower judiciary due to recruitment through an open entrance examination. However, the higher judiciary has opaque collegium system, which more likely reflect bias against women
4. Only out of 25 High Courts in the country has a woman Chief Justice (CJ Hima Kohli at Telangana High Court). Only 73 out of 661 High Court judges, which is roughly 11.04% are women. In five High Courts, namely, Manipur, Meghalaya, Patna, Tripura and Uttarakhand, there is not even a single woman judge.

Desirability of greater representation to women in the higher judiciary

1. It will ensure diversity of perspectives is fairly considered. For example – more balanced and empathetic approach in cases involving sexual violence. It will instill greater public trust in the judiciary.
2. Improvements in women's representation in the judiciary remain intrinsic to constitutional ideals of gender equality and social justice.
3. Women's greater participation in higher judiciary will provide impetus to fighting gender stereotypes and can pave the way for women's greater representation, in others decisions, making positions, such as in legislative and executive branches of the government.
4. The entry of women judges into spaces from which they had historically been excluded is seen as a positive step in the direction of judiciaries being perceived as being more transparent, inclusive, and representative of the people whose

lives they affect. By their mere presence, women judges enhance the legitimacy of courts, sending a powerful signal that they are open and accessible to those who seek recourse to justice.

Suggestions to increase women's participation in the higher judiciary

1. lack of infrastructure in courts, gender stereotypes and societal attitudes that have created hurdles for women to enter the legal profession. For example – a survey noted that out of nearly 6,000 trial courts, 22% have no toilets for women. This needs to change.
2. Making the process of Judicial appointment more transparent, inclusive and involve representation from government and opposition rather than the current scenario of 'judges appointing judges' (Collegium system).
3. Adopt better practices from countries like Britain where the government created an Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity to investigate the barriers to women and in the judiciary and propose suitable remedies and recommendations.

How have the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission of India enabled the States to improve their fiscal position?. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 2)

The Fourteenth Finance Commission was constituted by the President under Article 280 of the Constitution in 2013 to make recommendations for the period 2015-20. Dr. Y. V. Reddy was appointed the Chairman of the Commission. Finance Commission is a constitutional body created to address issues of vertical and horizontal imbalances of federal finances in India.

The 14th Finance Commission enabled the States to improve their fiscal position in the following ways:

- **Share in Centre's Divisible Pool:** The commission recommended an increase in the share of States in the Center's divisible tax pool to 42% from 32% at present. This will enhance the states autonomy in deciding their expenditure priorities.
- **Centrally Sponsored Schemes:** The Commission also recommended eight centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) to be delinked from support from the Centre. Thus, States will be sharing a higher fiscal responsibility and autonomy to implement development initiatives.
- **Taxation:** The Commission has recommended that tax devolution should be the primary source of transfer of funds to States. This would increase the flow of unconditional transfers and give States more flexibility in their spending.
- **Grants:** Transfers were proposed including grants to rural and urban local bodies, a performance grant along with grants for disaster relief and revenue deficit. These transfers total to approximately 5.3 lakh crore for the period 2015-20.

- **Compensation:** The commission recommended compensating States fully for three years in case of revenue loss after GST implementation. The Commission suggested that 100% compensation be paid to the States in the first, second and third years, 75% compensation in the fourth year and 50% compensation in the fifth and final year. It also recommended the creation of an autonomous and independent GST compensation fund through legislative actions

The Finance Commission recommendations will reform the State finances which will assume greater significance for macroeconomic management as the fiscal deficit of State governments reached unsustainable levels. After the recommendations, States will get autonomy in deciding their expenditure priority, which will enhance the spirit of “balancing wheel of fiscal federalism”.

To what extent, in your view, the Parliament is able to ensure accountability of the executive in India?. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 2)

Constitution of India provides for a parliamentary form of government, where the Executive is responsible to the Parliament for its policies and acts.

Mechanisms of Parliamentary control over the Executive:

1. **Question-hour, zero-hour,** half-an-hour discussion, short duration discussion, calling attention motion, adjournment motion, no-confidence motion, censure motion, and other discussions.
2. **General Discussion, Voting on policy/law;** censure motion; no-confidence motion.
3. **Budgetary control** – appropriation of grants and post-budgetary control through financial committees like Public Accounts Committee, etc.
4. **Walkouts, abstain from voting,** use of live-streaming to put pressure on the executive.

Parliament unable to ensure accountability of the executive:

1. Tendencies to evade route of debates/discussions/checks through instruments –
 1. Money bill route [Aadhar bill];
 2. Use of voice vote mechanism [Farm bills];
 3. frequent ordinances.
2. **Sidelineing parliamentary institutions–**
 1. lesser bills referred to parliamentary committees;
 2. low productivity of question-hour.
3. During the pandemic – a complete session [Winter session] was missed.
4. **Lack of discipline/decorum** –frequent disruptions [PRS – LS lost 1/6th; RS lost 1/3rd of its time to disruptions]

Suggestion to improve

- Following 15-point reform charter for better functioning of Parliament as suggested by Vice President

- Making scrutiny of all bills by Parliamentary Committees mandatory.
- Providing adequate time to opposition members to debate issues of public importance.

“Pressure groups play a vital role in influencing public policy making in India.” Explain how the business associations contribute to public policies. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 2)

Pressure Groups are a group of people organized actively to promote and defend their common interests and influence public policy. They act as the liaison between government and its members.

Role of Pressure Groups –

1. Promote opportunities for political participation without political party
2. Provide expertise and information to government;
3. Help in expressing views and needs of minority groups which remain unheard
4. Attract the attention of government on important issues
5. Act as safety valve in the democracy to vent out the pressure of people.

Role of Business Associations:

1. Engaging with the policy makers, government and civil society, influencing policies by way of articulating the views and suggestions of industry. (e.g. – FICCI, CII)
2. Communicate the grievances and demands of various sectors and industries to the government.
3. Conduct workshops, seminars, business meets and conferences to discuss, debate various upcoming and existed policies of the government.
4. Provides a platform for consensus-building and networking on key issues
5. Provide useful and credible research on existing and newer developments in areas such as industrial operations, infrastructure and technology.
6. Provide valuable information on potentials and new developments in foreign trade by studying the trade environment and imports regulations of many foreign countries.

“Besides being a moral imperative of a Welfare State, primary health structure is a necessary precondition for sustainable development.” Analyse. UPSC IAS Mains 2021 General Studies (Paper – 2)

Primary health care is a term used to describe the first contact a person has with the health system when they have a health problem. The Welfare State is a concept of government in which the State plays a key role in the protection and promotion of the economic and social well-being of its citizens.

Primary health structure is a moral imperative of a Welfare State:

- Right to Health is a part and parcel of Right to Life and therefore right to health is a fundamental right guaranteed to every citizen of India under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- As a Directive Principle of State Policy, Article 47 talks about raising the level of nutrition and the standard of living of people and to improve public health. It provides an obligation on the state to provide primary health facilities.

Primary health care is the most efficient and effective way to achieve health for all. Primary health structure is a necessary precondition for sustainable development in the following ways:

- Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 talks about ‘Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages’. Access to quality health care would not be possible without an effective primary health structure.
- Lack of availability of subsidised and timely treatment leads to affordability issues and creates a vicious cycle of poverty and heightens the out of pocket expenditure of people.
- Health conditions, disabilities, and unhealthy behaviors can all have an effect on educational outcomes and can also lead to social exclusion.
- At a societal level, poor population health is associated with lower savings rates, lower rates of return on capital, and lower levels investment; all of these factors can and do contribute to reductions in economic growth.

As recognized in the 2018 Astana Declaration, the Primary Health Care approach is the most effective way to sustainably solve today’s health challenges. The National Health Policy 2017 envisages providing a larger package of assured comprehensive primary health care through the Health and Wellness Centers’ and advocates allocating major proportion of resources to primary care.