

1. **Examine the scope of Fundamental Rights in the light of the latest judgement of the Supreme Court on Right to Privacy. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 2)**

In 2017, a 9-judge bench of the Supreme Court in Justice K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India passed a historic judgment. It declared privacy to be a fundamental right under Part 3 of Indian constitution. The Supreme Court has, however, clarified that like most other fundamental rights, the right to privacy is not an “absolute right” and is subject to the satisfaction of certain tests and benchmarks.

**Significance of Puttaswamy judgement**

1. Puttaswamy case resulted into declaration of right to privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. Thus one can move to Supreme Court or high court against tyranny of state.
2. This will strengthen freedom of thoughts, expressions, beliefs etc.
3. Provides for protection against the state’s interference in the private matters including marriage, family & sex.
4. It will help in prevent the situation of surveillance by the state.
5. It will give boost to the rights of the transgender & LGBT as confirmed by scrapping of section 377 of IPC.
6. The dignity & integrity of a people’s body, mind & thoughts are protected through Right to privacy.
7. Now one can make the state accountable & seek justice in case of any infringement in the private zone & in case of unnecessary surveillance without her consent.
8. This opens doors for further debates, will encourage awareness about the rights enjoyed by the citizens.
9. This verdict on right to privacy will also challenge the validity of privacy policies of many companies and will make them transparent and accountable.

**What government should do to protect right to privacy of Indian citizens?**

1. Individual consent should be must for data sharing. Consent must be obligatory to attain by all entities including the State, which determine purpose and means of data processing.

2. A Data Protection Authority (DPA), as an independent regulatory body responsible for the enforcement and effective implementation of the law must be established.
3. Government should monitor and enforce various regulations and laws diligently and transparently.
4. Government should promote research and awareness about citizen's right to privacy.
5. Sensitive personal data that like biometric should be prohibited for use without written consent.
6. The Central Government shall establish an appellate tribunal to hear and dispose of any appeal against an order of breach of privacy.
7. Penalties should be imposed for violations of the data protection law. Compensation for loss of privacy should be given to individual from such fines.

In the era of increased cyber crimes and frauds, Supreme Court judgement is critical for rights of Indian citizens. It's responsibility of government to secure its citizen's rights. Government should keep a close vigil over various companies and should ban companies involved in privacy breach.

2. **The Indian Constitution has provisions for holding a joint session of the two houses of the Parliament. Enumerate the occasions when this would normally happen and also the occasions when it cannot, with reasons thereof. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 2)**

The parliament of India consists of the lower house (Lok Sabha), Upper House (Rajya Sabha) and the President. Though both the houses of the parliament are independent in their functioning, there are instances of joint sittings as well provided in the constitution. These joint sittings are summoned by the president as and when necessary.

**Occasions when Joint Session of Parliament is summoned:**

As per Article 108 of Constitution, a Joint session of Parliament can be summoned in the following situation:

1. To resolve deadlock when any house of the Parliament passes a bill and when the other House rejects this bill, or
2. The houses do not agree on the amendments made to the bill, or
3. More than six months elapsed with the bill being received by the other House without it being passed. However, in calculating the period of

six months, those days are not considered when house is prorogued or adjourned for more than 4 consecutive days.

**Reason for holding joint session:**

The makers of the Constitution of India anticipated situations of deadlock between the upper house i.e. Rajya Sabha and the lower house i.e. Lok Sabha. Therefore, the Constitution of India provides for Joint sitting of both Houses to break this deadlock. Further, joint session reflect the importance of Rajya Sabha as a check on hasty legislations by the government. Since 1950, the provision regarding the joint sitting of the two Houses has been invoked only thrice. The bills that have been passed at joint sittings are:

- Dowry Prohibition Bill, 1960.
- Banking Service Commission (Repeal) Bill, 1977.
- Prevention of Terrorism Bill, 2002.

**Exceptions to Joint Session: According to the Indian Constitution, there are two exceptions when a joint sitting cannot be summoned. They are for the following bills:**

1. Money Bill: Under the Constitution of India, money bills require approval of the Lok Sabha only. Rajya Sabha can give suggestions to Lok Sabha, which it is not required to accept. Even if Rajya Sabha doesn't pass a money bill within 14 days, it is deemed to have been passed by both the Houses of Parliament after expiry of the above period. Therefore there is no need of summoning a joint session in the case of money bills.
2. Constitution Amendment Bill: As per Article 368, the Indian Constitution can be amended by both houses of parliament by 2/3rd majority. In case of disagreement between both houses, there is no provision to summon joint session of parliament.

Joint sitting is an extraordinary machinery provided by the Constitution aimed to maintain a much-needed synergy between the two houses of the Parliament. Article 118 provides that President of India may after consultation with the chair of the Rajya Sabha and the Speaker of Lok Sabha may make rules for procedure of joint session of parliament.

3. **To enhance the quality of democracy in India the Election Commission of India has proposed electoral reforms in 2016. What are the suggested reforms and how far are they significant to make democracy successful? (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 2)**

Electoral reform basically aims at introducing an electoral system of conducting free and fair elections. Keeping in view the necessity to strengthen democracy the Election Commission suggested significant reforms:

- Constitutional protection for all members of the election commission of India:ECI suggested that other election commissioners should also be protected in the same manner as Chief Election Commissioner is protected under clause (5) of Article 324.
- Budget of the commission to be "charged":Presently, the administrative expenditure of the Commission is a voted expenditure. The Commission sent a proposal that the expenditure of the Commission should be charged/ non-votable expenditure on the Consolidated Fund of India similar to other constitutional bodies.
- Independent Secretariat:The Commission proposes that it should have an independent Secretariat along the lines of the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and Registries of the Supreme Court and High Courts.
- Proxy voting:Section 60 of The Representation of the People Act, 1951 should be amended to provide overseas electors the alternative option of proxy voting or postal ballot voting.
- The Commission proposes that making of any false statement or declaration before the Election Commission should be an electoral offence.
- The Commission has proposed amendments and suggested dividing the seats in the Council of States and State Legislative Councils into three categories and specifying the term for each category in such a way that biennial retirement of 1/3rd of the members would be

	<p>ensured.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Use of totalizer for counting of votes: EVM totalizer can count votes of multiple Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) simultaneously. This way the results of votes in a group of EVMs can be taken without ascertaining the result in individual EVM corresponding to polling booth.</li><li>▪ Persons charged with cognizable offences shall be de-barred from contesting in the elections, at the stage when the charges are framed by the competent court provided the offence is punishable by imprisonment of at least 5 years, and the case is filed at least 6 months prior to the election in question.</li></ul>
4.	<p><b>Is the National Commission for Women able to strategize and tackle the problems that women face at both public and private spheres? Give reasons in support of your answer. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 2)</b></p> <p>National Commission for Women is a statutory organization formed in 1992. It is mandated to review the constitutional and legal safeguards for women; recommend remedial legislature measures; facilitate redressal of grievances and advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women.</p> <p>Since its inception, the Commission has occupied a considerable space in protecting the rights of weaker section of the population on gender lines. In the past, it has proposed the amendments to the acts such as IPC, 1860 to curb the sale of minor girls, Hindu Marriage Act 1955 to omit epilepsy as grounds for divorce, Dowry Prohibition Act in order to bring the problems of Dowry deaths in to the lime light and deal with them appropriately etc. It also proposed the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Bill which was passed in 2005.</p> <p>In recent times, the Commission has adopted the multi-pronged strategy of assisting women in redressal of their grievances, facilitating speedy delivery of justice to women by organising Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalats in different parts of the country as well as launching the awareness campaign regarding women's rights. Recently, the Commission set up several inquiry committees to combat problems faced by women such as in the case of police atrocities and misbehavior with girl students of Kurukshetra University, rape case of a women in Safdarjung Hospital, gangrape of 15 years old girl at Lucknow etc.</p>

Further, its Research Cell looks into the emerging problems of Indian women due to discrimination and gender bias.

However, there are also examples when the Commission has not been able to come up to the expectations of women in India. For example - on the other serious issue of use of sexual violence against women by police and army personnel in the highly militarised areas of Jammu and Kashmir, north-east and now Chhattisgarh, there has been a silence on this on the part of the commission. Also, the commission has been limited in its fight for empowering Indian women due to shortcomings in its composition and structure:

- It only recommends amendments and submits reports which are not binding on the government
- It lacks autonomy in terms of appointment of its own members.
- It is depended on the government for funding which compromises its independence.
- Its jurisdiction is not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir where the violence against women has increased in the recent past.

Thus there is a need to safeguard the political autonomy of NCW by replacing the current nomination system with a transparent, democratic and non-partisan selection process for members and chairperson of the commission. It should also be given the wider power to enforce its recommendations and provide immediate relief to the victim of women discrimination and violence.

5. **'The emergence of Self Help Groups(SHGs) in contemporary times points to the slow but steady withdrawal of the state from developmental activities'. Examine the role of the SHGs in developmental activities and the measures taken by the Government of India to promote the SHGs.(UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 2)**

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are informal associations of people who choose to come together to find ways to improve their living conditions. Such groups work as a collective guarantee system for members who propose to borrow from organized sources. The poor collect their savings and save it in banks. In return they receive easy access to loans with a small rate of interest to start their micro unit enterprise.

**Role of SHGs in Development Activities**

- SHGs ensure financial inclusion of the poor and marginalized by operating as a mechanism for delivery of micro-finance services to them.

- By encouraging and providing opportunities for self-employment, SHGs play a critical role in poverty alleviation.
- SHGs build social capital among the poor, especially women and marginalized sections like SCs and STs. Most of the beneficiaries of government schemes have been women from weaker and marginalized communities.
- Participating households spend more on education than non-client households.
- Better income levels due to participation in SHGs have led to improvement on health indicators.

**Measures taken by Government to promote SHGs**

- As part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) or Aajeevika, government facilitates women-led self-help groups (SHGs) by giving them bank loans at easy interest rates. This interest subvention provision has been further extended to more districts.
- The government has promoted the Self-Help Group (SHG)-Bank Linkage Programme to be implemented by commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks for providing micro-finance to SHGs.
- NABARD promotes SHGs by providing grant support for training, capacity building, skill upgradation, exposure visits etc.
- Scheme for promotion and financing of Women Self Help Groups (WSHG) is being implemented by NABARD across backward and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts.
- A fund called “Women SHGs Development Fund” with a corpus of Rs.500 crore to empower women led SHGs has been set-up. It is to be operated by NABARD.
- Rashtriya MahilaKosh provides loans to intermediary organizations which further lend it to SHGs.

Given the important role SHGs play in development activities, the government should continue to act as a facilitator and promoter by providing a supportive environment for SHGs to operate vibrantly.

6. **“Poverty Alleviation programs in India remain mere showpieces until and unless they are backed up by political will.” Discuss with reference to the performance of the major poverty alleviation program in India. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 2)**

India, in its pursuit of inclusive growth, continues to be plagued by the longstanding challenges of poverty and inequality. While numerous poverty alleviation programs are in place, their effectiveness is often curtailed, partially due to insufficient political commitment. According to the various reports in recent times, there had been a gradual decline in poverty rates in India.

**Major poverty alleviation programs in India:**

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA): Launched in 2006, MGNREGA aims to provide at least 100 days of wage employment per year to rural households seeking work. The program has had mixed results, with instances of successful implementation and notable impact on rural livelihoods, but also reports of corruption, fund leakage, and delays in wage payments.
  - A report by the Accountability Initiative (AI) in 2020 highlighted that while the demand for work under MGNREGA had increased, especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were considerable delays in wage payments. The report found that only 32% of the payments were made on time in the fiscal year 2019-20.
  - Another study by the People's Action for Employment Guarantee (PAEG) in 2021 pointed out that there had been a decline in the average days of employment provided per household under MGNREGA, falling short of the mandated 100 days. The study also highlighted that, despite the increased demand for work due to the pandemic, the central government's allocation for MGNREGA in the budget for 2021-22 was lower than the revised estimate for the previous year.
- Public Distribution System (PDS): PDS provides subsidized food grains to vulnerable populations to combat hunger and malnutrition. While the program has contributed to food security for millions, it is also plagued by inefficiencies, corruption, and exclusion of deserving beneficiaries.
  - According to the Economic Survey 2015-16, nearly 54% of the wheat, 48% of sugar, and 15% of rice allocated to the PDS was lost due to leakages. Moreover, about 36% of PDS kerosene was lost the same way.



- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report in 2016 pointed out that there was a significant diversion of PDS grains for open market sales.
- Furthermore, the “Global Food Policy Report 2020” by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) also highlighted the persistent inefficiencies of the PDS in India.
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY): Launched in 2015, PMAY aims to provide affordable housing to the urban and rural poor. The program has made progress in the construction of affordable housing units, but the demand for housing far outstrips the supply.
  - As per a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) for the year ended March 2019, only 1.2 crore houses were completed under PMAY (Rural) against the target of 2.6 crores.
  - In the case of PMAY (Urban), as of January 2021, out of the sanctioned 1.12 crore houses, only around 32.6 lakh houses have been completed, as per data from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The report also pointed out delays in the completion of houses and in the release of central assistance.

**Role of political will in the effectiveness of poverty alleviation programs:**

- Implementation: Strong political will is essential for effective implementation, ensuring that programs reach their intended beneficiaries and achieve desired outcomes.
  - For example, in case of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), strong political will is needed to ensure proper implementation, timely payment of wages, and effective monitoring of the program’s outcomes.
- Resource allocation: Political will is crucial for the allocation of adequate resources to poverty alleviation programs, as well as ensuring transparency and accountability in their utilization.
  - For instance , in the case of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Political will is crucial in ensuring the allocation of resources, facilitating the opening of bank accounts, and promoting awareness among marginalized communities about the benefits of financial inclusion.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Monitoring and evaluation: With political backing, programs can be effectively monitored and evaluated, enabling data-driven decision-making and improvements in program design and delivery.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ For example, National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), focuses on empowering rural households by providing them with opportunities for self-employment and skill development. Political will plays a vital role in resource allocation, training and capacity building, and monitoring the progress of beneficiaries to ensure effective poverty reduction.</li></ul></li><li>▪ Tackling corruption: Political will is required to address the corruption that often undermines the effectiveness of poverty alleviation programs and erodes public trust.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ For instance, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is an initiative that aims to transfer government subsidies and welfare benefits directly to the bank accounts of beneficiaries, eliminating middlemen and reducing corruption. Political will is crucial for implementing the necessary infrastructure, ensuring accurate targeting of beneficiaries, and addressing potential challenges during the transition.</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Only with steadfast political commitment can these programs transition from mere showpieces to effective instruments for poverty reduction and social progress.</p>
7.	<p><b>Initially Civil Services in India were designed to achieve the goals of neutrality and effectiveness, which seems to be lacking in the present context. Do you agree with the view that drastic reforms are required in Civil Services. Comment. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 2) (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 2)</b></p> <p>The civil service in India regarded as the ‘steel frame’ of administration, is today battling against onslaughts to its relevance. As the primary arm of government, the civil services must reform to keep pace with the changing times in order to meet the aspirations of the people.</p> <p>There is a need for reforming the civil services as they have fallen short on the goals of neutrality and effectiveness due to the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Career-based civil services coupled with excessive job security have led to a sense of complacency and lack of accountability amongst civil servants.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Goal displacement due to emphasis on rules rather than results – with rules becoming an end in themselves.</li><li>▪ The current system of training for the civil services does not adequately reflect changes in the socio-economic scenario and the emerging new challenges render conventional approaches and practices of administration obsolete and dysfunctional.</li><li>▪ Ivory-tower approach of civil servants due to disconnect from ground realities is reflected in their ineffective policy making. There is a marked lack of citizen-centric approach which is essential to understand and redress problems of the poor and the weaker sections.</li><li>▪ Lack of stability of tenure due to government's inherent right to transfer a civil servant prevents the incumbent to learn on the job, develop his/her own capacity and then contribute in the best possible manner.</li><li>▪ Political interference in the form of arbitrary and whimsical transfers to ensure administrative acquiescence prevents the civil servant from acting neutrally.</li><li>▪ Promise of post-retirement appointments to statutory commissions, quasi-judicial tribunals, constitutional authorities or contesting election for a political office on the ticket of a political party prevent the civil servant from acting impartially.</li><li>▪ Promotions hinge on several factors such as patronage versus merit.</li></ul> <p>Therefore, the purpose of 'reform' is to reorient the civil services into a dynamic, efficient and accountable apparatus for public service delivery built on the ethos and values of impartiality, neutrality and effectiveness. Holistic reforms are needed, cutting across dimensions of training (domain competence), promotion (performance related), tenure (stable), and interface with citizens (sensitivity training) etc.</p>
8.	<p><b>The question of India's Energy Security Constitutes the most important part of India's economic progress. Analyse India's energy policy cooperation with West Asian countries.(UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 2)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Indian economy is one of the fastest growing major economy in the world. To sustain the high economic growth of around 8% in the coming decades, energy security is of paramount importance to India. Despite India's efforts to develop its domestic energy capacity, it is dependent on imports for 80% of its oil needs, of which roughly 55%</li></ul>

is sourced from the Persian Gulf region and more than 80% of gas supplies. This highlights the need for energy policy cooperation with the resource rich West Asian countries. Consequently, India has adopted a 'Look West' or 'Link West' policy in this regard.

- Saudi Arabia is India's second largest source of oil. Iraq is also a major source of Indian energy imports. Further, the energy imports from Iran picked up in the recent past after the easing of sanctions by US. India has also enhanced its bilateral engagement with countries like Oman and UAE and also at institutional level with GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council).
- Though countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq and Qatar will continue to be its major suppliers of oil and gas, India is trying to walk the diplomatic tight rope in West Asia by partnering with Israel in its Leviathan natural gas field in the East Mediterranean Sea.
- India's energy relation with West Asian countries are intricately related with the Central Asian countries. Thus India has developed Chabahar port in Iran to access the Central Asian energy market. Besides energy infrastructure projects like TAPI gas pipeline and International North South Corridor will have ripple effects on the India's energy engagements with the West Asian Nations.
- India's energy policy engagement with the West Asian region is also related to providing maritime security in the region as most of the shipping vessels pass through Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean. Other major powers like China have increased its footprint in the region. Thus India must also take stock of this geopolitical game in order to secure its own energy security.

9. **Indian Diaspora has an important role to play in South East Asian countries economy and society. Appraise the role of Indian Diaspora in South-East Asia in this context. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 2)**

Though India's cultural interaction with Southeast Asia (SEA) precedes the dawn of Christian era, large scale Indian emigration began in the 19th and

20th centuries as a result of the colonial system.

Economic Contribution by Indians in SEA

- In Brunei, apart from running businesses mini-marts and small restaurants, Indians have filled up human resources vacuum - thus making an important contribution to its economy.
- In Philippines and Indonesia, members of the Indian Community have played a prominent role in the export of textile products – which has powered their economy in the recent past.
- The Indian community's contribution to Malaysia's GDP is about 2% and its share in Malaysia's international trade is about 3%.
- In Malaysia and Myanmar, almost all important spheres of life like the civil services, education, professional services, trade and commerce are largely in the hands of the Indian community.
- Part of Singapore's IT industry today is being fuelled by Indian expertise. There is also a significant Indian contribution to scientific research including in bio-technology and medicine.

**Role of Indian Diaspora in SEA Society**

In most of the Southeast Asian countries, the Indian community has integrated itself very well with the local populace. Quite a few Indian settlers have married the natives. Practically in every country, there is good presence of places of worship of almost all Indian religious communities which also celebrate religious and cultural festivals and events with great fervour and enthusiasm. The older generations, in particular make a special endeavour to keep Indian religious traditions and languages alive by holding religious and language classes in temples, mosques and gurudwaras.

Thus, the Indian Diaspora has been making significant contributions to the economy and society of the Southeast Asian countries serving as an important bridge to Indian culture and heritage.

10.	<p><b>Among several factors for India's potential growth, savings rate is the most effective one. Do you agree? What are the other factors available for growth potential?. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 3)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Capital formation is the most important factor that drives the economic development of a nation. It is mainly the transfer of savings from households to the business sector that leads to increased output and economic expansion.</li><li>▪ In India, savings have contributed a lot in the economic development since the Indian economy took off in 1960s and 70s. In the past few decades, it has been around 33% of GDP. However, high savings rate is a necessary condition but not a sufficient one for economic development.</li><li>▪ Many times high savings in isolation does not lead even to capital formation. One also needs sound banking and financial institutions to mobilize the savings of economy. At the same time, presence of entrepreneurship is also critical to convert savings into productive investment. Some other factors that are essential for growth potential are:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Infrastructure:</b> Sound infrastructure is needed in terms of good supply of power, electricity, roads, railways and robust means of communication.</li><li>▪ <b>Ease of doing business:</b> There should be hassle free environment to start and wind up the businesses in the economy. Bureaucratic hurdles in acquisition of land and licenses should also be minimized.</li><li>▪ <b>Human Resource:</b> Skilled labour force is essential for the improved productive capacity of economy. Capability of human resource depends upon the skills, creativity, abilities and education of the labour force.</li><li>▪ <b>Technology:</b> It increases the productivity and competitiveness of the economy. Today R&amp;D in every domain is essential to be competitive in the international and domestic market.</li><li>▪ <b>Government policies:</b> Policies decide the pace and direction of economy. India has introduced GST recently to unify its own economy and remove the cascading effect of taxes at multiple points. India's performance of Ease of Doing Business Index has</li></ul></li></ul>

	<p>also improved by 30 points (100th position in 2017) due to many policy initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Social and political factors:</b> Social factors involve customs, traditions, values and beliefs which contribute to the growth of economy. Political factors such as participation of people in formulation and execution of policies enhance the economic development.</li></ul> <p>India which is on the verge of reaping the benefits of demographic dividend, must launch skill development initiatives to utilize the young labour force. It should also improve ease of doing business and create a conducive environment for investment, better export performance to improve productivity of the economy.</p>
11.	<p><b>Account for the failure of manufacturing sector in achieving the goal of labour-intensive exports. Suggest measures for more labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive exports. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 3)</b></p> <p>A key lacuna in India's growth has been slow growth of manufacturing in labour-intensive sectors and concentration in capital intensive manufacturing sectors like auto parts, chemicals, software and pharmaceuticals. None of these sectors employ low-skilled workers in large numbers.</p> <p>The movement of workers out of agriculture into export oriented manufacturing industry has been especially slow due to requirement of a certain level of skill which is absent amongst most labourers – resulting in jobless growth. Lack of ease of doing business in India due to labour market rigidities, tax uncertainties, impediments to entrepreneurial growth have further hindered the expansion of a labour-intensive export manufacturing in India.</p> <p><b><u>Measure to Promote Labour-Intensive Exports</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Ease Labour Law regulations such as wide-ranging and complex laws, mandatory contributions by low-paid workers, and lack of flexibility in part-time work etc. The government's decision to rationalise around 38 Labour Acts by framing 4 labour codes is a positive step in this regard to encourage exporters to hire more labour.</li><li>▪ Promoting Labour-Intensive Sectors like apparel sector, leather and footwear also have high export potential.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Uninterrupted and Cheap Power Supply for labour-intensive manufacturers, who operate on low profit margins and for whom high electricity costs can be a make or break issue.</li><li>▪ Promoting the Role of SMEs as labour intensity of SMEs is four times higher than that of large firms by providing adequate state support. MUDRA Bank should be promoted for this.</li><li>▪ Skill development to fill the gap of semi-skilled and skilled workers that manufacturers in India face frequently.</li></ul> <p>Further, the tax rationalisation under GST as well as the push for Entrepreneurship under Start-Up India and Stand Up India can also provide a suitable and favourable environment for labour-intensive exporters.</p>
12.	<p><b>Examine the development of Airports in India through joint ventures under Public – Private Partnership (PPP) model. What are the challenges faced by the authorities in this regard. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 3)</b></p> <p>A public-private partnership (PPP) model is an understanding or agreement between two or more public and private sectors. It may be called a semi privatization arrangement. It is considered as a highly efficient system of management with more transparency.</p> <p>PPP and airports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ PPP model helps to develop the infrastructure of the airport for better operation.</li><li>▪ It ensures security and ample facilities for passengers and for cargo delivery.</li><li>▪ When airports are facing huge losses due to a shortage of government funding, the PPP model could restructure the overall system for smooth functioning.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ In 1999, Cochin International Airport was developed as the first airport in India under the public-private partnership (PPP) model.</li><li>▪ In 2004, Bangalore and Hyderabad airports were also considered under the PPP model.</li><li>▪ In 2006, the government tried to modernize New Delhi and Mumbai international airports.</li><li>▪ In recent times, Adani enterprise took the leasing of six airports i.e. Ahmedabad, Mangaluru, Lucknow, Jaipur, Guwahati, and Thiruvananthapuram. Though Kerala opposed the move.</li></ul></li></ul>



	<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Private companies always look forward to acquiring more profit with a limited number of employees, which results in job loss.</li><li>▪ It creates a problem in terms of tariff fixation, no provision for re-negotiation.</li><li>▪ It increases the operation cost and hikes the fare.</li></ul> <p>Comment</p> <p>Despite being so many problems the Public-Private Partnership model is showing significant progress in the UDAN scheme. The understanding between public and private players should not be rigid. Rather it should be more flexible to overcome all problems that are currently being faced by this sector.</p>
13.	<p><b>Explain various types of revolutions, took place in Agriculture after Independence in India. How these revolutions have helped in poverty alleviation and food security in India?. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 3)</b></p> <p>India is primarily an agricultural economy and majority of people are still dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. After independence, development of agriculture has been assured by various revolutions supported by government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Green Revolution</b> – This revolution led to tremendous rise in production of food grains, especially wheat, by use of high-yielding varieties of seeds, fertilizers and pesticide.</li><li>▪ <b>White Revolution</b> – Operation Flood (1970), an initiative of National Dairy Development Board has led to revolution in milk production in India. The world’s largest dairy development programme transformed India from a milk deficient nation to world’s largest milk producer.</li><li>▪ <b>Blue Revolution</b> – This revolution focussed on management of fisheries sector and has led to phenomenal increase in both fish production and productivity from aquaculture and fisheries resources of the inland and marine fisheries.</li><li>▪ Other revolutions which are no less significant includes yellow revolution(oil seed production), golden fibre revolution (jute), golden revolution (horticulture), silver fibre revolution (Cotton) and red revolution (meat production).</li></ul> <p><b>Significance of these revolutions</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ These innovations in agriculture have lifted millions of people out of poverty by generating rural income opportunities for farmers, farm labourers, and also reduced prices for consumers. India has become self sufficient in food grain production with the help of green revolution.</li><li>▪ The exponential rise in milk production has led to nutritional security among the masses. Per capita availability of milk has reached all time high of 337gms/day.</li><li>▪ These steps have provided avenues for income diversification for farmers.</li></ul> <p>To further carry on the momentum of these programmes and assure food security in long run in face of ever increasing population, there is an urgent need for an 'evergreen revolution' that should focus on all round development of the agriculture sector.</p>
14.	<p><b>What are the reasons for poor acceptance of cost-effective small processing unit? How the food processing unit will be helpful to uplift the socio-economic status of poor farmers?. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 3)</b></p> <p>India being an agricultural country offers ideal conditions for development of emerging food processing industry. Easy availability of raw materials, changing lifestyles in urban and rural areas and favourable fiscal policies are giving a push to this sunrise sector. But small processing unit in India are suffering from many challenges such as-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Infrastructure: Small processing units cannot invest heavily in infrastructural support such as grading, packaging, cold storage, warehousing, logistics, supply chains etc. They rely on the common facilities in these activities.</li><li>▪ Manpower: Skill shortage is hampering the competitiveness of this sector. There are few institutes which provide adequate training to the labour force in this sector.</li><li>▪ Seasonality and perishability: Most of the agricultural products such as fruits, vegetable, fisheries etc are highly perishable and thus increase the vulnerability of the entrepreneurs to wastage of commodities. The supply of raw materials is also seasonal in nature.</li><li>▪ Credit: Although the industry has been included in the priority sector lending, there are inherent risks involved in small enterprises.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Competition: Increasing investment in the sector has led to intense competition which has adversely impacted the operating profitability of the units.</li><li>▪ Technology: Value addition is the key factor in the food processing but India still lacks the universalisation of robust technology in this sector.</li></ul> <p>Food processing industry plays an important role in uplifting the socio-economic status of poor farmers through following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ By providing a vital link between the agriculture and manufacturing sectors, it reduces the wastage of agricultural raw materials and increases shelf life of food products. This helps farmers to sell more in the long run.</li><li>▪ It links farmers to the agricultural market and provides them better income especially for horticultural products.</li><li>▪ Farmers can also earn more through more exports as value addition increases the competitiveness of products in the international market.</li><li>▪ It provides employment opportunities in sectors such as packaging, sampling, logistics and other non-farm activities. Thus it helps farmers to shift from farming to non-farming activities and have better lifestyles.</li></ul> <p>India must leverage all the available resources to emerge as a leader in food processing sector. It has come out with SAMPADA scheme, Mega Food Park Schemes, Value Addition Centres, Irradiation facilities etc. to promote this sector. However more needs to be done to enable small farmers to benefit from these initiatives.</p>
15.	<p><b>Stem cell therapy is gaining popularity in India to treat a wide variety of medical conditions including leukaemia, Thalassemia, damaged cornea and several burns. Describe briefly what stem cell therapy is and what advantages it has over other treatments? (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 3)</b></p> <p>Stem cells refer to class of undifferentiated cells that have ability to differentiate into various specialized cells. These cells have potential to develop into many cell types in body during early life and growth. In many tissues these cells work as a kind of internal repair system to replenish other cells.</p> <p>This ability to repair and regenerate damaged cell is used in stem cell therapy for treatment of various diseases. In this therapy, stems cells are administered systematically and directly in high concentration in damaged</p>

tissues for self-healing. Stem cells for this purpose are obtained from the patient's bone marrow, fat and umbilical cord tissue or blood. This therapy is being promoted as the next panacea for all ills.

- Diseases that were earlier considered degenerative, incurable and irreversible are being treated with the help of stem cell therapy. The list includes diseases like diabetes, heart disease, spinal cord injuries, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's disease etc.
- Blood stem cells are increasingly being used to treat diseases of the blood. Some methods of treatment like chemo therapy used in treatment of cancer destroys bone marrow also. Stem cell transplant can be used to replace such bone marrow.

India is among the frontrunner in stem cell therapy. Clinical trials are being performed to treat genetic, metabolic and blood related conditions. Stem cell has the potential to replace expensive, painstakingly protracted and routinely ineffective conventional therapy for treating a multitude of acute and chronic ailments.

16. **India has achieved remarkable successes in unmanned space missions including the Chandrayaan and Mars Orbiter Mission, but has not ventured into manned space mission. What are the main obstacles to launching a manned space mission, both in terms of technology and logistics? Examine critically. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 3)**

India has been able to carry out unmanned spaced mission but lacks the full fledged capabilities in manned space missions. Although some developments have taken place in terms of technology and logistics, India is still facing some hurdles in launching manned space missions.

Technology

- India lacks the technology to carry heavy payloads into space.
- Full capabilities in re-entry technologies are yet to be developed.
- India could not get international cooperation in the field such as cryogenic technology at early stage.
- ISRO is planning to launch manned space programme by 2021-24. Towards this end, it has unveiled a prototype of its first crew capsule (4 metre high module) designed to carry two people into low earth orbit.
- India in 2017 launched the GSLV (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle) Mark 3 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre. It carried a three

	<p>ton payload, including “Crew Module Atmospheric Re-entry Experiment (CARE)”. However the third stage of cryogenic technology in GSLV is still not fully developed. GSLV Mark 3 will also be upgraded and tested to carry payloads upto 8 tonnes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>India is also working on Space Capsule Recovery Experiment-2 (SRE-2) that will demonstrate critical technologies required for recoverable launch vehicles.</li></ul> <p><u>Logistics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>India is depended mainly on single type of launch vehicle such as that of PSLV which hampers the capacity expansion of the programme.</li><li>India does not have its own global navigation system.</li><li>Funding and finance is essential to develop various equipments, technology and new tools required in the coordination of a manned space programme. But ISRO is still waiting for the government approval and funding for a human space flight programme.</li></ul> <p>Some scientists hold the view that private players have much more flexibility, freedom and risk taking abilities than the state owned agencies. Thus there should be more participation of private players in space programmes. India must realize that China launched its manned space mission to space in 2016 and will establish its permanent space station by 2022. Therefore India should also increase its footprints in manned space mission capabilities at the earliest.</p>
17.	<p><b>Not many years ago, river linking was a concept but it is becoming reality in the country. Discuss the advantages of river linking and its possible impact on the environment. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 3)</b></p> <p>India is endowed with vast natural resources distributed unevenly across the country. National Perspective Plan for river linking was initiated with the objective of transferring water from surplus basins to deficit basins. The river linking project has many advantages as listed below–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Transfer of water from surplus regions like Assam and Bihar will help in solving the perennial flood problem that plagues these regions.</li><li>As a corollary many drought affected areas will be able to access sufficient water for irrigation, drinking and other purposes.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ River linking project will provide additional irrigation benefits. According to estimates, around 35 Mha of additional irrigation potential will be created.</li><li>▪ It has also been estimated that around 34,000 megawatt of hydroelectricity would also be produced that could be used for irrigation and other purposes.</li><li>▪ The wide network of inland navigation proposed by the government will also be facilitated by the initiative. This move will ease pressure on rail and road transport.</li><li>▪ Inter-state water dispute will also be resolved to a great extent.</li></ul> <p>Possible impact on environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ It is feared that construction of big dams and long canals will destroy natural vegetation and will disturb the ecological balance.</li><li>▪ The project will also be detrimental to mangroves in the delta region of West Bengal and will have implications for richest fisheries in India.</li><li>▪ It will inundate large tract of fertile agricultural land and make them unsuitable for agriculture.</li></ul> <p>The river link project is not without its disadvantages. The environmental angle needs to be taken into consideration such that minimum damage accrues to ecology and environment.</p>
18.	<p><b>Discuss the potential threats of Cyber attack and the security framework to prevent it. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 3)</b></p> <p>The benefits of cyberspace to citizens, businesses and governments are considerable and far reaching. While technologies are overwhelmingly created for positive use, they can be exploited as well. Crimes in cyberspace cost the global economy around \$450 billion a year.</p> <p><u>Potential threat</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Cyber attack is a particularly major threat to sectors identified under Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) that include financial systems, air traffic control and telecommunications.</li><li>▪ First, all the sectors identified as CII are dependent on connectivity. Debilitating attack on any one system can cause a cascading effect, disrupting the functioning of other systems.</li><li>▪ Second, CII is highly dependent on industrial control systems, which depend on digital instructions. Any malicious takeover of these systems will not only disrupt but also seize functioning of CII.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Third, many CII, such as air traffic control, is dependent on navigational data, which is especially vulnerable to spoofing. If the integrity of this data cannot be ensured, the input of false data can have disastrous consequences.</li></ul> <p><u>Security Framework</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The Indian government has also been aggressively addressing the rising prevalence of cyber threats. National Cyber Security Policy 2013 has been framed to create a secure cyber ecosystem, ensure compliance with global security systems and strengthen the regulatory framework. The union budget for 2017 included the formation of Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) for the financial sector.</li><li>▪ The government has also sought data security protocol details from several smart phone manufacturers insisting that mobile manufacturing units be security-compliant. The Technology Development Board and Data Security Council of India (DSCI) have jointly decided to promote cyber security startups in India.</li><li>▪ NASSCOM and DSCI Cyber security Task Force have also launched a roadmap to develop the cyber security ecosystem to \$35 USD billion by 2025.</li></ul>
19.	<p><b>The North-Eastern region of India has been infested with insurgency for a very long time. Analyze the major reasons for the survival of armed insurgency in this region. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 3)</b></p> <p>Due to its distinct socio-cultural background and particular historical evolution, the North-East region of India holds several fault lines around which many insurgent groups have been thriving for a very long time. The major reasons behind the evolution and survival of armed insurgency in this region are-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ This region has been one of the most neglected regions in terms of developments and is the main cause behind the resentment of the people living in this area. The insurgent groups take advantage of resentment of people and get support base.</li><li>▪ Alienation of population from mainstream political process, where the insurgent group continue to boycott the dialogue and electoral process. (Ex – NSCN-Khaplang group)</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Hilly terrain, dense forest and porous borders give strategic advantages for the insurgent Guerilla groups and at the same time it creates big hurdle for the counter insurgency operations.</li><li>▪ Racial clashes are very common here due to diverse racial profile of the region. In a fractured society the insurgent groups penetrate easily.</li><li>▪ Active and covert foreign support to these insurgent groups, through training, logistic and moral support has also been a big hurdle to eradicate these groups.</li></ul> <p>The twin approach of development and counter insurgency operations coupled with honest political dialogue process may provide the best answer to the long infested insurgency in the North-East.</p>
20.	<p><b>One of the intended objectives of Union-Budget 2017-18 is to ‘transform, energize and clean India’. Analyze the measures proposed in the Budget 2017-18 to achieve the objective. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 3)</b></p> <p>Budget in India is a socio-economic document that reflects the aims and aspirations of the government and people of India. The initiatives in the Budget 2017-18 can be discussed under following heads:-</p> <p><b>1. Transforming India</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ It concerns with those policies of the government that seek to transform the governance of the country and improve the quality of life of people.</li><li>▪ The budget has focused on upgrading the infrastructure of railways, roads, rivers, airports, telecommunications and energy sector. But railways in India need comprehensive reforms as it is evident from recurrent accidents in different parts of the country.</li><li>▪ Greater allocation for DeendayalAntyodaya Yojana is relevant in context of skilling India and reaping the benefits of demographic dividend in India.</li><li>▪ Rationalisation of tribunals is a positive step towards securing rule of law and effective delivery of justice.</li><li>▪ Tax administration is to be reformed through the strategy of RAPID (Revenue, Accountability, Probity, Information and Digitalisation). This strategy will help to plug tax avoidance at various levels and increase revenue of the government.</li></ul> <p><b>2. Energizing India</b></p>



- There is focus on uplifting the conditions of various sections of society especially the youth and the vulnerable.
- The conditions of farmers are to be improved through settling the arrears under the FasalBima Yojana, setting up Micro Irrigation Fund and widening the coverage of National Agricultural Market (e-NAM). However perishables are yet to be denotified from APMC acts by the states and model law to regulate contract farming has not come in public domain.
- Mission Antyodaya will be strengthened to bring one crore households out of poverty by 2017. But there are no effective measures to better target the beneficiaries under this scheme.
- Different initiatives for development of youth has been proposed such as SANKALP, next phase of STRIVE, extension of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras etc. But to energize youth of the country, robust IT infrastructure is a necessity which is hampering the learning outcomes in schools, colleges and skill development schemes.

### **3. Clean India**

- It entails removing the evils of corruption, black-money and non-transparent political funding.
- Digital economy is being strengthened through initiatives like JAM trinity, BHIM app, Financial Inclusion Fund, Amending Negotiable Instruments Act etc. But not much has been done to protect the digital payments and transactions from cyber frauds and thefts and accessibility to computers or mobiles is limited to few.
- To bring transparency in the funding of political parties the limit of donation through cash has been fixed at Rs. 2000/- from one person and electoral bonds will also be issued in future.

The budget envisions to 'transform, energize and clean India' but it will not be materialized unless there is effective implementation of policies. Therefore the institutions to execute policies must be rejuvenated and a sound mechanism for the monitoring and evaluation of policies should also be established.

21. **“Industrial growth rate has lagged behind in the overall growth of Gross-Domestic-Product (GDP) in the post-reform period” Give reasons. How far the recent changes in Industrial Policy are capable of increasing the industrial growth rate?. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 3)**

Industrial policy 1991 set out directions for industrialisation in an economy that began its journey in liberalisation. It dealt with liberalising licensing and measures to encourage foreign investments. However, Industrial growth rate could not match the pace with the overall growth of GDP.

Constraints to industrial growth

- Inadequate infrastructure: Physical infrastructure in India suffers from substantial deficit in terms of capacities as well as efficiencies. Lack of quality of industrial infrastructure has resulted in high logistics cost and has in turn affected cost competitiveness of Indian goods in global markets.
- Restrictive labour laws: The tenor of labour laws has been overly protective of labour force in the formal sector.
- Complicated business environment: A complex multi-layered tax system, which with its high compliance costs and its cascading effects adversely affects competitiveness of manufacturing in India.
- Slow technology adoption: Inefficient technologies led to low productivity and higher costs adding to the disadvantage of Indian products in international markets.
- Inadequate expenditure on R&D and Innovation: Public investments have been constrained by the demands from other public service demands and private investment is not forthcoming as these involve long gestation periods and uncertain returns.

Recently Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has proposed various changes in industrial policy that will focus on increasing the industrial growth rate in following manner -

- The new policy aims to attract \$100 billion of FDI in a year, up from \$60 billion in 2016-17, it will also aim at retaining investments and accessing technology.
- The policy aims to harness existing strengths in sectors like automobiles and auto-components, electronics, new and renewable energy, banking, software and tourism.
- The policy also aims to create globally scaled-up and commercially viable sectors such as waste management, medical devices, renewable energy, green technologies, financial services to achieve competitiveness.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The policy will also push for reforms to enhance labourmarket flexibility with an aim for higher job creation in the formal sector and performance linked tax incentives.</li></ul>
22.	<p><b>What are the salient features of 'inclusive growth'? Has India been experiencing such a growth process? Analyse and suggest measures for inclusive growth. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 3)</b></p> <p>Inclusive growth is economic growth that creates opportunity for all segments of the population and distributes the dividends of increased prosperity, both in monetary and non-monetary terms, fairly across society. The salient features of inclusive growth are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Participation:</b> People are able to participate fully in economic life and have greater say over their future. People are able to access and participate in markets as workers, consumers and business owners.</li><li>▪ <b>Equity:</b> More opportunities are available to enable upward mobility for more people. All segments of society, especially poor or socially disadvantaged groups, are able to take advantage of these opportunities.</li><li>▪ <b>Growth:</b> An economy is increasingly producing enough goods and services to enable broad gains in well-being and greater opportunity. Economic growth and transformation is not only captured by aggregate measures of economic output (such as GDP), but must include and be measured by other outcomes that capture overall well-being.</li><li>▪ <b>Stability:</b> Individuals, communities, businesses and governments have a sufficient degree of confidence in their future and an increased ability to predict the outcome of their economic decisions.</li><li>▪ <b>Sustainability:</b> Economic and social wealth is sustained over time, thus maintaining inter-generational well-being. Economic and social wealth comprises of a set of assets that contribute to human well-being, including human produced (manufactured, financial, human, social) and natural capital.</li></ul> <p>India's economy continues to grow at an impressive rate, with projected annual GDP growth of 7.5% in 2017-18. As GDP per capita has more than doubled in last ten years, extreme poverty has declined substantially.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Access to education has steadily improved, and life expectancy has risen.</li></ul>

- Financial inclusion has got a major boost with the expansion of rural banks and schemes like Jan-DhanYojna, incorporation of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) (JAM Trinity).
- Job, education and food entitlement schemes like MGNREGA, RTE and Right to Food are also helping in deepening the growth further.

However India still is home to largest number of poor and malnourished children. Recent reports are suggesting huge income concentration in the hands of few. With looming agrarian distress and jobless growth, inclusive growth is still a distant dream for India.

According to WEF report, India has been ranked 60th among 79 developing economies, below neighbouring China and Pakistan, in the inclusive development index.

**Measures for inclusive growth**

- Equity of access to quality basic education including basic financial literacy. Ex: RTE
- Ensuring quality health and sanitation facilities by making health a fundamental right.
- Gender parity measures through political representation, women reservation.
- Measures focused on social security benefits and gender parity, for ex., through gender budgeting.
- Creating employment opportunities through Make in India, Skill India etc.

Through these measures inclusive growth can be ensured and the Gandhian dream of reaching to the last man standing in the row can be achieved.

23. **What are the major reasons for declining rice and wheat yield in the cropping system? How crop diversification is helpful to stabilize the yield of the crops in the system?. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 3)**

Rice-wheat cropping system is labour, water, capital and energy-intensive, and becomes less profitable as availability of these resources diminishes. The problem is further exacerbated by dynamics of climate change. The relevant factors for decline in yield are discussed below -

- Decline in Soil fertility: Due to continuous irrigation and use of excessive flood irrigation, soil in rice-wheat cropping system has become saline. It has resulted into decrease in crop yield.

- Climate change: According to studies, climate change has a negative effect on major crops such as wheat, rice and maize. Increase in annual temperature range has also affected the crop yield of rice and wheat.
- Increased input cost: High rate of infestation with weeds and pests along with contamination of ground water have resulted into high cost of input for cultivation of rice and wheat.
- Change in water availability: Due to excessive use of ground water and consequent depletion of ground water resources, water availability has declined. This has resulted in decline in crop yield.

Therefore, it is imperative to focus on alternate crops. Crop diversification refers to a shift from the regional dominance of one crop to production of a number of crops. Crop diversification helps in:

- Maintaining soil fertility: Only those crops are grown in a particular region which are suitable to particular agro climate zone and it helps in maintaining soil fertility because excessive use of nutrients, irrigation is not required.
- To arrest depletion of ground water: It will help in diversifying cropping patterns from water guzzling crops such as paddy to pulses, oilseeds, maize with the aim of tackling the problem of depleting water table.
- Diversification can also provide habitat for beneficial insects and at the same time reduce colonization by pest.

The government of India has launched crop diversification scheme in the original green revolution areas of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh. Under Crop Diversification Programme assistance is provided to states for conducting cluster demonstrations on alternate crops, promotion of water saving technologies, distribution of farm machinery, and awareness through training.

24. **How do subsidies affect the cropping pattern, crop diversity and economy of farmers? What is the significance of crop insurance, minimum support price and food processing for small and marginal farmers?. (UPSC CSE Mains 2017 - General Studies Paper 3)**

Agriculture is one of the most important contributor to economic development as well as job generation in the world especially in rural areas. Large number of citizens depend either directly or indirectly on agriculture for their living and hence it is important to take additional measures to support agriculture through subsidies.

**Effect of subsidies on**

- **Cropping** **pattern**  
Subsidies are directly responsible to cropping pattern of an area. The crops that receive better and more attractive subsidies is always selected for growing. The better the subsidy larger is the area of a particular crop in a region.  
Ex: Sugarcane crops are better subsidised in form of loans and remuneration and hence are widely grown.
- **Crop** **diversity**  
If subsidies are not restricted to a particular crop and instead widely distributed among various crops then crop diversity is bound to increase. This is because farmers are more attracted for growing a crop which has support in form of subsidies.  
Ex: Haryana government had announced subsidies for crops other than paddy and wheat so as to increase crop diversity.
- **Economy** **of farmers**  
Subsidies can enhance the economic condition of farmers tremendously. Subsidies will reduce the need for borrowing at high interest rates and will help in taking care of initial costs. These will ultimately boost the profit margin.

**Significance on small and marginal farmers**

- **Crop** **insurance**  
Crop insurance acts as cover against any incidents that can destroy crops and push a farmer towards poverty, especially small and marginal farmers. By paying a small amount as premium, farmers can be assured of profits in the future.
- **MSP**  
Minimum Selling Price ensures that farming becomes a profitable profession and rural economy is boosted. By providing a certain amount as MSP that covers cost of growing and a profit margin, income of small farmers will increase regardless of market prices.
- **Food** **processing**  
Food processing industries act as fixed market for small farmers who do not have the required resources to sell their produce to far places. These industries will provide the required materials such as seeds, fertilizers in addition to good rates in return for compulsory selling to them.

	<p>Thus, these measures have a major role to play if agriculture production has to boost. Growing agriculture economy will provide additional benefits such as job creation and exports boost.</p>
25.	<p><b>Give an account of the growth and development of nuclear science and technology in India. What is the advantage of fast breeder reactor programme in India?. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 3)</b></p> <p>India's journey in the field of nuclear science and technology began with the formation of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in 1954. The aim was to harness nuclear resources for peaceful purposes. India had to surpass the obstacle of technology denial by capable nations.</p> <p>In this background three-stage nuclear power programme was formulated by Dr. Homi Bhabha in 1950s to secure country's long term energy independence, through use of uranium and thorium reserves found in the monazite sands of coastal regions of South India.</p> <p>The ultimate focus of the programme is on enabling thorium reserves of India to be utilised in meeting country's energy requirements. Thorium is particularly attractive for India, as it has not only around 1–2% of the global Uranium reserves, but one of the largest shares of global Thorium reserves at about 25% of the world's known Thorium reserves.</p> <p>The three stages adopted were</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Natural uranium fuelled Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PWRH)</li><li>▪ Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) utilizing plutonium based fuel</li><li>▪ Advanced nuclear power systems for utilization of Thorium</li></ul> <p>At present only stage 1 is operational and all 22 functional nuclear reactor in India belongs to this stage with total capacity of 6780 MW. At present, the fast breeder reactor programme in India is carried out by Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam, Tamilnadu.</p> <p>The advantage with a breeder reactor is that it generates more fissile material than it consumes. Also in the second stage, fast breeder reactors (FBRs) would use Plutonium-239, recovered by reprocessing spent fuel from the first stage, and natural uranium.</p> <p>This technology does not contribute to air pollution, except during mining and processing of Uranium ore. Breeder reactors use a small core, which is important to sustain chain reactions. Besides, they do not even need moderators for slowing down neutrons, as they use fast neutrons.</p> <p>In FBRs, plutonium-239 undergoes fission to produce energy, while the uranium-238 present in the fuel transmutes to additional plutonium-239.</p>

	<p>Furthermore, once a sufficient amount of plutonium-239 is built up, thorium will be used in the reactor, to produce Uranium-233. This uranium is crucial for the third stage.</p>
26.	<p><b>'Climate change' is a global problem. How India will be affected by climate change? How Himalayan and coastal states of India will be affected by climate change?</b></p> <p>Climate change is referred to a change in average weather conditions, or in the time variation of weather within the context of longer-term average conditions. Climate change has attracted attention recently particularly due to the changes apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and it is attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ India due to its peculiar geography and developmental stage is one of the most vulnerable nations to climate change.</li><li>▪ India is already experiencing a warming climate and erratic monsoon pattern, unpredictable rainfall since last few years.</li><li>▪ Droughts are expected to be more frequent in some areas, especially in north-western India, Jharkhand, Orissa and Chhattisgarh.</li><li>▪ Climate change is expected to have major health impacts in India-worsening the already high malnutrition and related health disorders such as child stunting - with the poor likely to be affected most severely.</li></ul> <p><u>Possible effects on Himalayan states</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ With rise in average temperature, most Himalayan glaciers have been retreating over the past century. This may have severe impact on the delicate Himalayan ecology.</li><li>▪ The melting of glaciers and the loss of snow cover over the Himalayas is expected to threaten the stability and reliability of northern India's primarily glacier-fed rivers systems, particularly major river systems like the Indus, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra. This will adversely impact the ecology, livelihood and overall economy of Himalayan states.</li></ul> <p><u>Possible effects on coastal states</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ India is close to the equator, the sub-continent would see much higher rises in sea levels in comparison to higher latitudes and most of coastal states will face the heat of climate change.</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Kolkata and Mumbai, both densely populated cities, are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of sea-level rise, tropical cyclones, and riverine flooding</li><li>▪ Sea-level rise and storm surges would lead to saltwater intrusion in the coastal areas, impacting agriculture, degrading groundwater quality and contamination of drinking water.</li></ul> <p>Being one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, it is high time that India should take corrective and mitigating actions to cope up with the upcoming challenges of climate change.</p>
27.	<p><b>On December 2004, tsunami brought havoc on fourteen countries including India. Discuss the factors responsible for occurrence of tsunami and its effects on life and economy. In the light of guidelines of NDMA (2010) describe the mechanisms for preparedness to reduce the risk during such events. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 3)</b></p> <p>On December 26, 2004 the gigantic tsunami waves generated due to a great undersea earthquake off the coast of Banda Aceh, northern Sumatra. This earthquake occurred along a thrust fault in the subduction zone where the Indian tectonic plate was going below the overriding Burmese plate. As a result, the ocean floor broke and there was a vertical displacement of about 15 to 20 meters along the fault causing large scale displacement of water and thus, generating tsunami waves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Typically, for an average ocean depth of 4 km, like in the Indian Ocean/Bay of Bengal region, the speed of the tsunami waves can go up to 720 km/h or about the speed of a jet airliner. As the tsunami waves approach the shore, the water depth becomes shallower, waves slow down, wavelength becomes shorter and the waves gain larger amplitude or heights and become destructive.</li></ul> <p><u>Effect on life and economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Tsunami waves destroy boats, buildings, bridges, cars, trees, telephone lines, power lines - and just about anything else in their way. Once the tsunami waves have knocked down infrastructure on the shore they may continue to travel for several miles inland, sweeping away more trees, buildings, cars and other man made equipment. Small islands hit by a tsunami are left unrecognizable.</li><li>▪ After a tsunami strikes, landscapes that previously constituted picturesque beaches or seaside towns become a wasteland. In addition</li></ul>

	<p>to the destruction of human construction, tsunamis destroy vegetation such as trees, resulting in landslides and coastlines that slip into the sea as deep root systems that previously held land in place are ripped out.</p> <p><u>Preparedness in light of NDMA Guidelines</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The 2004 tsunami prompted NDMA to formulate Tsunami Risk Management Guidelines to outline inter-agency roles and responsibilities, tsunami risk preparedness, mitigation and response.</li><li>▪ In order to reduce risk of tsunami it is pertinent to explore options for effective dissemination of tsunami alert and warning messages generated by INCOIS to the concerned agencies and coastal vulnerable communities exposed to tsunamis in a coordinated manner.</li><li>▪ Structural Mitigation measures, as envisaged in the Guidelines, gives a brief guidance on design and construction of new structures as well as strategies for protecting lifeline and priority structures from tsunamis along the seafront.</li><li>▪ A robust techno-legal regime through efficient land use practices, bioshields, shelter belt plantation and mangrove regeneration with community involvement will also help towards the cause.</li></ul>
28.	<p><b>Mob violence is emerging as a serious law and order problem in India. By giving suitable examples, analyze the causes and consequences of such violence. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 3)</b></p> <p>Over the past few years, there have been increasing incidents of loss of life and property due to mob violence – whether it be in Jharkhand over rumours of child kidnapping, in UP and Rajasthan by cow vigilantes, in Kashmir by violent crowds or over reservation by Jats in Haryana. Mob violence can be seen as a reflection of the displacement of responsibility by the state, which blames people for taking law into their own hands, and by citizens, who justify their actions on state inaction.</p> <p><u>Causes for Increasing Mob Violence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Motivated rumours spread through social media which acts as an anonymous force multiplier.</li><li>▪ Climate of impunity - Mob violence and vigilantism happens because criminals expect to get away with it. State deterrence is not perceived to be credible, especially when policemen are rendered as mere bystanders at the scene of violence.</li></ul>

- General erosion of law and order situation - inadequate response to societal disorder, and its inability to aggressively prosecute those involved in vigilante killings further encourages mob violence.
- Silence by society – People who are mute witnesses to such incidents, are just as responsible when they stay away from expressing their disapproval to such incidents for the fear of being caught in the cross-fire.

Consequences of increasing Mob Violence

- There is deficit of justice when incidents of lynching across states happen, without those responsible being held accountable.
- There is perversion of democracy, which confers upon the people an absolute monopoly on violence.
- Mob Violence threatens the very existence of dignified and meaningful existence in India enshrined in one of the Fundamental rights i.e. “Right to Life” (Art 21).

Therefore, there is need for comprehensive police reforms and efficient criminal justice delivery system which acts as a deterrence to people from resorting to mob violence in the name of justice.

29. **The scourge of terrorism is a grave challenge to national security. What solutions do you suggest to curb this growing menace? What are the major sources of terrorist funding?**

India has been hit by terrorism since a long time, like, 1993 Bombay blasts, attack on Parliament in 2011, the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, Pathankot attacks etc. In view of such attacks it becomes imperative for India to check this rising menace, for which the following steps can be taken:

- Ensure co-ordination among the intelligence and security agencies to check infiltration of terror activity.
- Empowering and engaging with civil society and local communities can help in countering radicalization and to stop the spread of violent extremism.
- Given the important role of educational establishments in promoting the values of non-violence, peaceful coexistence and tolerance, education must feature prominently in counter radicalization programs.
- Several initiatives that promote alliance of civilizations and intercultural dialogue must be promoted to counter terrorism. For

instance, the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrated on 31st October promotes unity in India.

- Enhancing security presence along the international boundaries and seal the porous borders.
- Undertaking policies to tackle economic and social inequalities will help in deterring disgruntled youth from being lured towards terrorism.
- Terrorist organizations have successfully taken advantage of the great benefits of the Internet. Hence, countering radicalization on digital media must be given priority. Governments should intervene in this matter through monitoring and counter-propaganda programs
- Incorporating 'SAMADHAN' in security operations in LWE affected areas and at same time focusing on development projects in Red corridor districts.

**Sources of funding**

- NGO, charities and donations are an important sourcing of funds for terrorism. These funds are mostly claimed through religious appeal, coercion and fears of victimization.
- Counterfeiting of Indian currency not only funds terrorism, but, more importantly, it is used as a tool by neighboring states to destabilize the Indian economy.
- Drug financing are also a major sources of terrorism financing in India.
- Biggest source of internal funding for terrorist groups in India remains extortion. This is especially relevant for groups in the North-East and the Maoist-affected areas.

30. **Conflict of interest in the public sector arises when (a) official duties, (b) public interest, and (c) personal interest are taking priority one above the other. Show can this conflict in administration be resolved? Describe with an example. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 4)**

A conflict of interest occurs when an individual or entity has competing personal, financial, or professional interests that could potentially compromise their objectivity, judgment, or decision-making in a situation where their responsibilities require impartiality. This can lead to biased decision-making, favoritism, and corruption. Resolving this conflict requires a combination of legal and ethical measures.

**Ways to resolve conflict of interests:-**

1. **Independent Oversight:** Establishing an independent oversight body or committee that reviews and monitors potential conflicts of interest in the public sector.
  - **Example: The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in India acts as an independent oversight body that investigates corruption cases and potential conflicts of interest in the public sector..**
2. **Transparency and Accountability:** Implementing measures to ensure transparency in the decision-making process, such as making financial disclosures public, maintaining registers of interests, and requiring public servants to declare potential conflicts on a regular basis.
  - **Example:** The Right to Information (RTI) Act in India allows citizens to access information held by public authorities.
3. **Cooling-off Periods:** Enforcing cooling-off periods, where public servants are required to wait for a specific duration before joining the private sector or engaging in activities that may create a conflict of interest.
  - **Example:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposes cooling-off periods for its senior officials before they can join private financial institutions.
4. **Training and Education:** Providing comprehensive training and education programs for public servants to increase awareness about conflicts of interest, ethical decision-making, and the importance of prioritizing public interest.
  - **Example:** The Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in India conducts training programs that include sessions on ethics, integrity, and conflict of interest for civil servants.
5. **Ethical Guidelines:**
  - **Example:** The All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968, provide ethical guidelines for public servants in India. Rule 13 states that public servants must not engage in any work or conduct that is inconsistent with their official duties or may compromise their integrity.

	<p>Overall, the key to addressing conflict of interest in the public sector is to establish a strong legal and ethical framework that promotes transparency, accountability, and impartiality in decision-making processes.</p> <p><b>Examples:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Babu Bajrangi:</b> Government official involved in the 2002 Gujarat riots, conflicting his role with personal biases.</li><li>▪ <b>P. J. Thomas:</b> P. J. Thomas, former Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) of India, faced a conflict of interest when allegations of corruption were raised against him during his tenure.</li></ul>
31.	<p><b>Examine the relevance of the following in the context of civil service: (a) Transparency (b) Accountability (c) Fairness and Justice (d) Courage of Conviction (e) Spirit of service. (UPSC IAS Mains 2017 General Studies Paper – 4)</b></p> <p><b>(a) Transparency</b> means sharing information and acting in an open manner. Transparency is essential for controlling corruption in public life, to uphold accountability and deliver information to stakeholders about the activities, procedures and policies of the Government. It also allows stakeholders to collect information that may be critical to uncovering abuses and defending their interests.</p> <p><b>(b) Accountability</b> is the process whereby public sector organisations, and the individuals within them, are responsible for their decisions and actions and submit themselves to appropriate external scrutiny. Accountability is the fundamental requirement for preventing the abuse of power and for ensuring that power is directed towards the achievement of efficiency, effectiveness, responsiveness and transparency in civil services. It is needed to prevent covert unethical behaviour which would affect public service and due entitlements of stakeholders.</p> <p><b>(c) Justice</b> means giving each person what he or she deserves while fairness is associated with an ability to judge without reference to one's feelings or interests. The principles of justice and fairness can be thought of as rules of "fair play" for issues of social justice. These principles of justice and fairness are needed in civil service to ensure that the common man receives his due without biasness, inefficiencies or greed of the civil servant affecting his entitlements.</p> <p><b>(d) Courage of conviction:</b> In public service, while facing different situations one may be buoyed by the circumstances, fear, passions, greed since the</p>

decisions at the helm would be affecting many interests, vested or non-vested. It is during these trying moments that courage of conviction helps a civil servant to stay on the best course of action despite various temptations and risks, staying firm in his beliefs, values and duty. Hence, this quality assumes importance in public service.

**(e) Spirit of Service:** Quality of being committed to public service without any self motives. The domain of civil service calls for duty in the spirit of service for country, society and its people and sacrifices by putting aside greed, personal entitlements and engagements. This is the single most important value that marks civil services apart from other service and keeps the civil servant motivated to keep working for the betterment of society.