



GS Mains Test Series 2019 Model Answer Test Code [1034]

1. Recently it was reported that Earth's atmosphere is leaking into space. Explain the concept of leakage of atmosphere and how it is measured? (10 marks)

Earth's atmosphere is slowly losing its gaseous materials (hydrogen, oxygen etc) at an average rate of around 90 tons per day to the space as the near-Earth space has much more Earth-borne oxygen than expected. This phenomenon is also known as atmospheric escape.

The phenomenon of atmospheric escape is intimately connected to aurora formation. Auroras are created when charged particles from the sun hit Earth's atmosphere, where they interact with nitrogen and oxygen molecules and in the process bright hues of red, green, and yellow re emitted. In this process the aurora formations drive electric currents that heat the upper atmosphere and as a result the light hydrogen and oxygen atoms get sufficiently heated and gain enough energy to escape into the outer space.

Measurement of atmospheric escape:

The leakage of atmosphere is measured by calculating the amount of oxygen present in near-Earth space environment. The escaped oxygen gets collected in the region of space surrounding the atmosphere.

- Recently, NASA has launched **Visualizing Ion Outflow via Neutral Atom Sensing-2** (VISIONS-2), which is a sounding rocket mission, to get a closer look at the process of leakage of atmosphere.
- These rockets can be placed at remote locations, where they are aimed and shot into short-lived events, like the sudden formation of the aurora borealis, at a moment's notice.
- The rocket will study a single oxygen outflow event and will be chasing the perfect aurora to unravel the phenomenon of atmospheric escape.

2. Explain the phenomenon of shifting of Earth's magnetic field. What changes will take place as a result of this shift? (10 marks)

On Earth, flowing of liquid metal in the outer core of the planet generates electric currents as a result of dynamo effect. The rotation of Earth on its axis causes these electric currents to form a magnetic field which extends around the planet. Earth's magnetic and geographic poles are situated opposite of one another. In other words, Earth's magnetic south pole is actually near the geographic North Pole.

Liquid churning in Earth's core generates most of the magnetic field, which varies over time as the deep flows change. In 2016, for instance, part of the magnetic field temporarily accelerated deep under northern South America and the eastern Pacific Ocean.



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Earth's north magnetic pole has been skittering away from Canada and towards Siberia. This movement has been happening earlier also and the shifting is driven by the movement of liquid iron within the planet's core.

What changes take place when the shifting of magnetic pole happens:

- The shifting of pole can interfere with the ability of Earth to shield against harmful solar radiations and cosmic rays.
- As a result of this shift the scientists have to regularly update the World magnetic Model. The most recent version of the model came out in 2015 and was supposed to last until 2020 but the magnetic field is changing so rapidly that researchers have to fix the model now.
- Some birds and animals like whales and dolphins use Earth's magnetic field for migration and for finding directions, therefore a shift in magnetic field might effect their navigation.

3. It has been observed of lately that the frequency and intensity of storms in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal have increased. What reasons can be attributed to this phenomenon? (10 marks)

The cyclonic activities in the Indian Ocean usually start in spring, months before the monsoon, and end in December. The severe cyclone frequency in the north Indian Ocean (i.e., the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea) has registered about a three-fold increase during the past decades. As compared to the previous decades, when about one severe cyclone was expected to form every year during the intense cyclonic period i.e. May, October and November, this number has now gone up to about three per year.

During the period 1891-2000 (almost 110 years) 24 severe cyclones passed the west coast but in 15 years (1998 to 2013), five extremely severe cyclones originated in the Arabian Sea, which highlights an increase in the intensity of severe cyclones.

Academicians and experts have pointed out to the following factors which have collectively resulted in greater intensity of severe cyclones in the Indian Ocean:

- **Climate change and global warming:** The Indian Ocean is warming, particularly the Arabian Sea, which is doing so at the fastest rate. Cyclones were earlier restricted to Gujarat but now Kerala and Karnataka have also become more vulnerable to Arabian Sea cyclones. A recent example is 'Ockhi'.
- **El Nino and Modoki:** El Nino Modoki suppresses cyclogenesis in the Bay of Bengal but offers large convergence over the Arabian Sea, explaining a large number of cyclones in that region. Similarly El Nino, was found to suppress cyclone formation in the Arabian Sea. The statistical analysis supports the



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occurrence of the cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea in line with the El Nino and El Nino Modoki years.

- **Pollution:** High levels of pollution along the regions of the coasts pull storms towards themselves and aggravate the conditions of a storm.

Above factors combine together to intensify a tropical cyclone, provide a suitable landfall position as the coastal pollution pulls the passing cyclone towards itself.

4. The theories of Palaeo-magnetism and Sea Floor Spreading approve the concept of Plate Tectonics. Comment. (10 marks)

Plate tectonics: Earth's crust and upper mantle, or lithosphere, consists of about 20 large segments, known as plates that are about 100 km thick and thousands of miles wide. These plates slide back and forth on top of a lower layer of material known as the **asthenosphere**. The plates collide with each other head on, slide back and forth against each other, and pull apart from each other. Significant geological events, such as volcanoes and earthquakes, are produced as a result of these plate movements.

Palaeomagnetism:

- **Paleomagnetism** is the study of the record of the Earth's magnetic field in rocks, sediment, or archeological materials.
- When metallic minerals are formed they are influenced by the direction and intensity of earth's magnetic field which varies across the earth.
- Certain minerals in rocks contain a record of the direction and intensity of the magnetic field when they form. This record provides information on the past behavior of Earth's magnetic field and the past location of tectonic plates.
- For example, some rocks in Alaska, North America have magnetic minerals oriented in such a way that they must have been laid down at or near the equator.

Sea floor spreading:

- The intense heat generated by radioactive substances in the mantle (100-2900 km below the earth surface) seeks a path to escape, and gives rise to the formation of convection currents in the mantle.
- Wherever rising limbs of these currents meet, oceanic ridges are formed on the sea floor and wherever the falling limbs meet, trenches are formed.



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- Sea floor spreading explains that continuous volcanic activity takes place at the mid-oceanic ridges which pushes the tectonic plates in either direction, thus causing new crust to form on the sea floor.
- However, this crust is not actually formed as the lava emitted at the ridges gets consumed on the other edge of the plates where equal amount of sea floor gets consumed in the trenches which are a subduction zone, thus confirming the theory of plate tectonics.

5. Rainwater harvesting can be a game changer to the urban water crisis in India. How can this technique be popularized in India? (10 marks)

Rainwater harvesting (RWH) is a simple method by which rainfall is collected for future usage. The collected rainwater may be stored, utilized in different ways or directly used for recharge purposes. With depleting groundwater levels and fluctuating climate conditions, RWH can go a long way to help mitigate these effects.

Capturing the rainwater can help recharge **local aquifers**, **reduce urban flooding** and most importantly it can **ensure water availability** in water-scarce zones and urban cities of India.

Need of rainwater harvesting in urban cities:

- **Increasing demand due to rapid Urbanization**- As per Census 2011, 37.7 crore people live in urban population, which may grow to 57.5 cr by 2030. As a consequence of this phenomenon, water demand in urban areas is increasing rapidly.
- **Increasing Concretization in urban areas**- leading to less available space for water percolation and recharge in ground.
- **Inefficient use of urban water resources**- The rainfall on the surface tends to flow and as large as 85,565 MCM of surplus run-off can be harnessed to augment the ground water.
- **Over-dependency on Ground Water**- nearly 30% of urban water supply and 70% of rural water supply comes from groundwater.

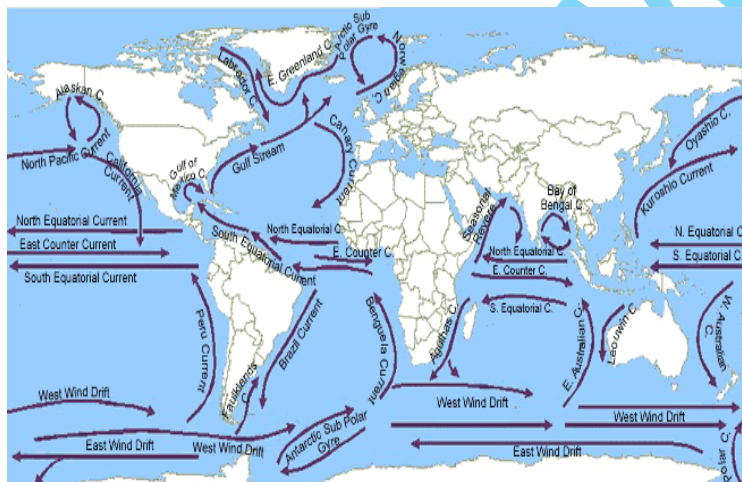
Government must appraise the concept of rainwater harvesting at the highest levels and following suggestions are worth considering for the popularization of the concept:

- **Install Rain Water Harvesting Systems mandatorily**- in all Government and public premises such as done by West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.
- **Launch a mega program on Rain Water Harvesting**- on the analogy of 'Swachh Bharat Mission'.

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- **Greater compliance in environmental clearance-** where measures taken to ensure rain water harvesting should be ensured before giving any clearance.
- **Use of satellite technology:** for mapping of ground water for assessing water needs of urban towns.
- **Stricter enforcement of laws relating to groundwater usage-** Currently, 70-80% of states have passed legislations for protecting water bodies and mandating rainwater harvesting as per the Niti Aayog.
- **Drafting a National Law** for Rain Water Harvesting and on Storm Water utilization is needed.
- **Promotion of traditional practices** of Roof Water Harvesting and simple technologies.
- **Convert Rain Water Harvesting into a peoples' movement:** Such as the Ministry had organized 'India Water Weeks' in 2012, 2013 and 2015 to resolve water related issues and create awareness on ground. Similarly, **JalBachao, VedioBanao, PuruskarPao Campaign** have been undertaken.

6. What are the factors which influence the flow of ocean currents across the world? (10 marks)



- An ocean current is any more or less permanent or continuous, directed movement of ocean water that flows in Earth's oceans. The currents are generated from the forces acting upon the water and these currents can flow for thousands of kilometers. Some of the factors affecting flow of ocean currents are mentioned below:
- **Winds drive currents that are at or near the ocean's surface.** Near coastal areas winds tend to drive currents on a localized scale and can result in phenomena like coastal upwelling. On a more global



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scale, in the open ocean, winds drive currents that circulate water for thousands of miles throughout the ocean basins.

- Ocean currents are generated and **affected by the rise and fall of tides**. Tides create currents in the oceans, which are strongest near the shore, and in bays and estuaries along the coast. Tidal currents change in a very regular pattern and can be predicted for future dates.
- Ocean currents are **also affected by thermohaline circulation**. This is a process driven by density differences in water due to temperature (thermo) and salinity (haline) variations in different parts of the ocean. Currents driven by thermohaline circulation occur at both deep and shallow ocean levels and move much slower than tidal or surface currents.
- The factors relating to the **earth's nature and its rotation include the gravitational force** and deflective force by earth's rotation i.e. **coriolis force**, also drives ocean currents, turning it towards right in northern and left in southern hemisphere when water moves from equator to poles.
- The factors that can modify the currents are **direction and shape of coastlines, bottom reliefs of the ocean basins**, seasonal variations.
- It has been documented that **climate change is also affecting the flow of ocean currents**. The melting of fresh water from the glaciers changes the salinity level and temperature of sea water (**thermo-haline circulation changes**) which affects flow of currents.

7. How has the process of globalization affected the transgender rights movement in India? (10 marks)

Globalization has an impact on all aspects of life, including the construction, regulation and imagination of sexuality and transgender. Emerging economies like India are experiencing mobilization of third gender and sexual identity politics raising fundamental questions of citizenship, human rights, cultural identity and tradition.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in India face legal and social difficulties not experienced by non-LGBT persons. Over the past decade, LGBT people have gained more and more tolerance and acceptance in India, especially in large cities. On 6 September 2018, the Supreme Court of India decriminalized homosexuality by declaring Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code unconstitutional. Homosexuality was never illegal or a criminal offence in ancient Indian and traditional codes but was criminalized by the British during their rule in India.

International influence on LGBT rights in India:



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- The Stonewall riots of 1969 at the New York City were the first major violent protests for gay rights in US. Stonewall riots are considered the start of LGBT civil rights movement across the world.
 - In 1973 after years of studies, analysis, and changing cultural attitudes, the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from the official list of mental illnesses as it was earlier considered.
 - India's first exclusive gay magazine Bombay Dost, remains an exclusively English language publication aimed at the middle class and its was largely influenced by Western academics such as Teresa de Lauretis and Michel Foucault.
 - More than a thousand people walked in 2014 pride in Kolkata, where political placards were far more common than flamboyant outfits. The turnout was an Indian version of similar parades in the U.S. or Europe organized on the lines of 'queer prides'
- Although India's LGBT movement is still in its infancy, but there are reasons for hope. India and the world share much among each other when it comes to gay rights as the September 2018 judgment of SC is a landmark ruling which has forced other South Asian countries into similar contemplation.

8. The Indian Ocean Region presents tremendous trade potential for the country. How can ocean based resources be used to propel the growth of the country?

India has a coastline of around 7500 km's and is surrounded by the Indian Ocean from three sides. The Indian Ocean region is rapidly emerging as an essential crossroads linking the world's major producers and consumers of natural resources. Oceans are claimed to be the last frontiers of growth and development, but the immense potential that the Oceans present remains to be tapped fully.

The countries in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) exhibited significant dynamism in the past few years as the trade in the region increased by over four times from US\$ 302 billion in 2003 to US\$ 1.2 trillion in 2012. The development of Blue Economy can serve as a growth catalyst in realizing the vision to become a \$10 trillion economy by 2032.

The Indian Ocean Region is abundant with resources, particularly in the sectors of fisheries, aquaculture, ocean energy, sea-bed mining and minerals, and providestremendous economic opportunities to develop marine tourism and shipping activities.

- **Fish production and aquaculture:** The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report states that while other world oceans are nearing their fisheries limit, in certain areas, the Indian Ocean's resources have the potential to sustain increased production. Fisheries of today provide about 16% of the total world's protein with higher percentages occurring in developing nations like India.



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- **Ocean based minerals:** Polymetallic nodules and polymetallic massive sulphides are the two mineral resources of commercial interest.
- **Ocean based industries:** Industries like gas exploration, shipbuilding etc which are based on ocean resources present huge potential for growth.
- **Energy production:** Ocean presents opportunity in the fields of energy generation which include Ocean Thermal Energy Generation and tidal energy generation.
- **Tourism:** Tourism is the fastest growing division of the world economy and is responsible for more than 200 million jobs all over the world.
- **Ocean based bio-resources:** Ocean's biological diversity far exceeds that of terrestrial environments but is largely unknown. Marine bio resources are a significant source for sustainable development of marine based products, including food, feed, nutraceuticals, cosmeceuticals, biomedical, biopolymers, enzymes with industrial applications and a range of other commodities.

The Indian Ocean region needs a sustainable and inclusive framework for international partnerships. Countries in the region need to coordinate and manage the substantial economic potential the Indian Ocean area presents.

9. Recently, the PM gave a call for achieving 'SabkaVishwas' which highlights the fact that sometimes the thin line between communalism and nationalism can be blurred. What kind of nationalism do you think India needs today? **(10 marks)**

Recently the Prime Minister asked the nation to work towards achieving 'Sabka Vishwas' i.e. trust of all during his speech. PM's call highlights the growing atmosphere of hate and distrust in the society and the feelings of alienation among few sections of the society.

Nationalism and Communalism:

Nationalism is a sense of national consciousness exalting one nation above all others and placing primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interests as opposed to those of other nations or supranational groups.

Communalism has evolved as a part of modern political systems based on representative democracies. Its philosophy involves inciting and arousing feelings in people on the basis of their religion and belief systems, highlighting differences in various communities on religious lines in order to extract political, administrative or economic benefits.



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Both nationalism and communalism include alignment of people on the basis of some common features but nationalism arouses a nation whereas communalism can be used among communities within a nation.

Often communalism is practiced under the garb of nationalism and the thin line of difference gets blurred when nationalism is aroused not on the basis of common national heritage and culture but on the basis of a particular community's culture such that it excludes the culture of other communities from a common nationalistic fervor.

Nationalism for today:

Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore were two giant thinkers of modern India with vastly different ideas of nationalism. Gandhi's nationalism was based on dislike for British greed, violence and imperialism. His nationalism depended more on India's indigenous cultural and educational systems and empathy towards weaker sections.

However, Tagore's nationalism was based more on social equality and humanity which transcended boundaries and was not limited to one nation. Focus on human values formed the core of nationalism and included the protection of the rights of every section of society.

Way forward:

In the wake of growing regionalism and communal conflicts India of today needs to pursue a balanced nationalism. Nationalism today must focus on internal social equality and empowerment and true pursuit of 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas' rather than anchoring itself as an opponent of any external force or some other country. It needs to blend Gandhi's love for downtrodden and Tagore's call for humanity and egalitarianism.

10. What are the reasons behind the spurt in caste based violence in India? What steps have been taken by the government to curb this trend? (10 marks)

India has witnessed a sharp escalation in violence against Dalits in last few years. Year by year, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has registered a six to eight-fold upsurge in the rate of crimes committed against Dalits compared to the crime rate in the preceding years. Caste based crimes during this period include violent incidents such as murder, assault and rape which constitute the lion's share crimes against Dalits.

Reasons behind spurt in caste based violence in India:

- **Better relative progress of Dalits:** It is not the absolute progress of Dalits but their relative progress – that is, how much has social progress helped the Dalits to catch up and narrow the gulf between them and



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the rest of the society, that has irked the upper castes. If there had been prosperity for all classes, which is not so as demarcated by rising unemployment, such backlash would not have been a result.

- **Lack of restraint on fringe organizations:** Fringe organizations openly propagate hateful feelings, ideas and advisories on social media which are widely circulated. Lack of action against these groups by the state motivates other people to follow suit.
- **High unemployment:** Rising unemployment and manipulable youth become easy pawns which can be ignited to commit violence by vested interests for claiming limited resources.
- **Better reporting of crimes:** More crimes are being recorded now than in the past in police stations as a result of increasing literacy among Dalits, role of social media and greater awareness of rights.

Government has initiated some steps to curb the trend of rising caste-based violence:

- Government has recently released draft amendments to the IT Act which make it mandatory for online platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook and Twitter to trace the originator of hateful content or fake news leading to crime.
- The PM has made a call to achieve 'Sabka Vishvas' which is a strong message and conveys government's intentions on curbing the rising victimization of lower castes.

11. Women movements in independent India have made critical contribution to the cause of women in India from time to time. Explain. (15 marks)

The Constitution guaranteed equality to all citizens irrespective of caste, creed or gender (Article 14), which made it redundant to demand the same through women's movement. There was a lull in the women movements for over twenty years after independence. It was believed that women's status would dramatically improve along with other marginalized groups because they were now the masters of their destiny.

However, very soon women realized that Constitutional rights of women will not be automatically enforced but they have to be fought for. Post this realization, from mid 1960s, there was an upsurge of different women movements which raised a number of women issues like land rights, wages, security of employment, equality.

Major women movements since independence which contributed to the field of women empowerment and emancipation can be summarized as:

Livelihood based agitations:



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- The **Anti-price rise movement** of 1973–75 organized by Communist and Socialist women in the urban areas of Maharashtra, saw thousands of housewives joining public rallies and those who could not leave their houses joined by beating thalis (metal plates) with lathas (rolling pins). . United **Women's Anti-Price Rise Front** was formed to mobilize women against inflation.
- The **Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)**, a trade union movement, in Ahmedabad led by Ela Bhatt, in 1972, brought together women involved in various trades in the informal sector who commonly shared experiences such as low earnings, harassment at home, harassment by contractors and the police, poor work conditions, non-recognition of their labor. Apart from collective bargaining, the movement strove to improve working conditions through training.

Domestic violence and alcohol abuse:

- **Shahada Movement** was a Bhil tribal landless laborer's movement against exploitation. Women demanded direct action on issues like physical violence and alcohol abuse which resulted into the formation of an organization, **ShramikSangathan**, by tribals, which became a platform for collective agitation.
- The **Anti-arrack Movement** started as a spontaneous **movement against liquor** and domestic abuse, in 1992, in Andhra Pradesh. It was a women's movement which saw the articulation of the issue of family violence in a public forum
- Anti-price rise agitation fire balled into a mass women's movement **for consumer protection** which spread to Gujarat, where it was called the **NavNirman Movement** in 1974. It raised political, economic issues, **family violence, domestic roles and challenged patriarchal stereotypes.**

Environmental Related Movements:

- From 1974, women in Uttarakhand were very active in the **Chipko Movement** for saving trees. It underscored women's special nurturing role towards nature, and the link between environmental degradation and the resulting extra toil women undergo to collect fuel wood, fodder and water.
- Able women like MedhaPatkar and other women groups played a central role in the success of **NarmadaBachaoAndolan** against SardarSarovar Project, which endangered thousands of tribal women families and livelihood.

Political and legal empowerment Movements:



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- During mid-1970s there arose '**autonomous**' **women groups** in urban centres. There was a clear shift away from mass campaigns to setting up of women's centres for legal aid, counselling, documentation, research, publication. Among the earliest of these was the **Progressive Women's Organization** in Hyderabad in 1974, and the **PurogamiStreeSangathana** in Pune and the **StreeMuktiSangathana** in Bombay in 1975.
- Movement for **grant of reservation to women in legislatures**, which resulted into draft women reservation bill in 2008.

Equality of work, opportunities:

- The declaration by the UN of 1975 as the International Women's Year and the international **Feminist Movement** probably contributed to a flurry of activity in India. In India, the National Committee on the Status of Women had been set up, whose report, the **Towards Equality Report (1974)**, became a major landmark for the women's movement. The beginnings of the women's movement in India, has often been traced back to this report.
- Legal battle against restrictions on entry into **ShaniShignapur** temple, **Haji Ali Dargah** and abolition of **Triple Talaq**.

For Safety and Security:

- **Nirbhaya** agitation carried out in 2011, after brutal rape of a college girl by a group in moving bus, shocked the nation. This movement resulted into stricter laws against rape.
- The **Mathura rape case** was an incident of **custodial rape** in 1972, wherein Mathura, a young tribal girl, was allegedly raped by two policemen in Maharashtra. There was public outcry and protests, which eventually **led to amendments in the Indian rape law** via The Criminal Law Act 1983.

One of the great strengths of the women's movement has been its central chord of optimism that the world can be different, that change can happen, and that women can and will take responsibility for bringing that change into being. Instead of debating whether there is still a need for a women's movement, we should be asking ourselves what role we can all play in healing the deep fractures that exist between us, to help realize the enduring promise of true egalitarian world.

12. Linguistic reorganization of states was dreaded as a stumbling stone at the time of independence but it worked as a stepping stone for the country's regional integration. Justify. (15 marks)

The boundaries of provinces in pre-1947 India had been drawn haphazardly, and no heed was paid to linguistic or cultural cohesion, resulting into multilingual and multicultural provinces. Congress undertook



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political mobilization in the mother tongue and had repeatedly committed itself to the redrawing of the provincial boundaries on linguistic lines.

The reorganization of states on the basis of language, a major aspect of national consolidation and integration, came to the fore almost immediately after independence. But the national leadership had second thoughts on the subject immediately after independence due to some strong reasons:

- Independence was accompanied by serious economic and law and order problems. Reorganization at that time would have been an **added burden on the prevailing administrative insufficiency**.
- Prevailing war-like situation with Pakistan and Kashmir issue made **national consolidation top priority**. Immediately redrawing internal boundaries **might have intensified regional and linguistic rivalries**, as recommended by Dhar Commission in 1948.
- The **timing, the agitation and violence** with which linguistic provinces were being demanded, convinced the government that it was not the opportune moment to go for linguistic reorganization.
- It was felt that this step would take **attention away from other social and economic challenges** that the country faced, which was more important at that time.
- The need for postponement of reorganization was also felt because the **fate of the Princely states had not been decided. Also, the memory of Partition was still afresh**.

Now it is more than sixty years since the formation of linguistic states. We can say that linguistic states and the movements for the formation of these states changed the nature of democratic politics and leadership in some basic ways which has proven to be a boon for India's composite democracy:

- The path to **politics and power is now open to people other than the English speaking elite** which had major representation in Parliament during independence, as now every Indian has equal stake and representation in Indian democracy.
- It has led to **economic development of many states** having same language, like Kerala and Gujarat, in recent decades, which highlights the **cohesiveness and synergy experienced** by people within the state.
- It has created **homogeneous political units** which could be administered through a common language. Now **local people also participate in the administration** because of being able to communicate in a common language.
- By reorganizing the states on linguistic lines, the national leadership **removed a major grievance which could have led to fissiparous tendencies**. The national government has been strengthened by the creation of coherent state units.



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- It has **made the concept of competitive federalism successful** in India, wherein different states act as independent consolidated units and compete each other for growth harmoniously.
- The accommodation of linguistic and cultural diversities also promotes positive social outcomes. The **greater the level of sub national solidarity, higher will be the State's commitment to social welfare**. Kerala's success is the best example. In contrast, Uttar Pradesh is a development laggard with little sub national solidarity.
- After creating linguistic states, attention has been paid by people towards **nourishing, promoting and enriching their language**, which has added to the cultural heritage of India.

The linguistic states underlined the acceptance of the principle of diversity. It was a choice in favor of recognizing and accepting the existence of differences which could at times be oppositional. Indeed it can be said with the benefit of hindsight that language, rather than being a force for division has proved a cementing and integrating influence.

13. State's approach to counter Naxalism oscillates between use of force and development but the crisis continues to rear its head. What approach would be effective in containing this decade old challenge? (15 marks)

Naxalism originated as a rebellion against local landlords, in Naxalbari village in West Bengal, with an objective of rightful redistribution of the land to working peasants in 1967. The movement has rapidly found roots among displaced tribes and natives. Naxalism is majorly a **socio-economic problem** as Naxal affected areas grapple with:

1. **Low degree of employment** and lack of education and qualification for jobs
2. New forest policies pose **restrictions on their livelihoods** which cause cultural humiliation
3. **Weak access to health care, education and power**, restricted and limited access to natural resources.
4. Multifaceted forms of **exploitation, social atrocities, displacement** and deficient rehabilitation programs, political marginalization and ignorance.
5. **Forced eviction, forced migration** which lands then into occupations like bonded laborers and landless cultivators.
6. People inhabiting these areas are usually **scheduled castes and classes**, who are victims of ostracisation.
7. **Poor or worse governance**, coupled with failure in formulation and implementation of right schemes at the right time.

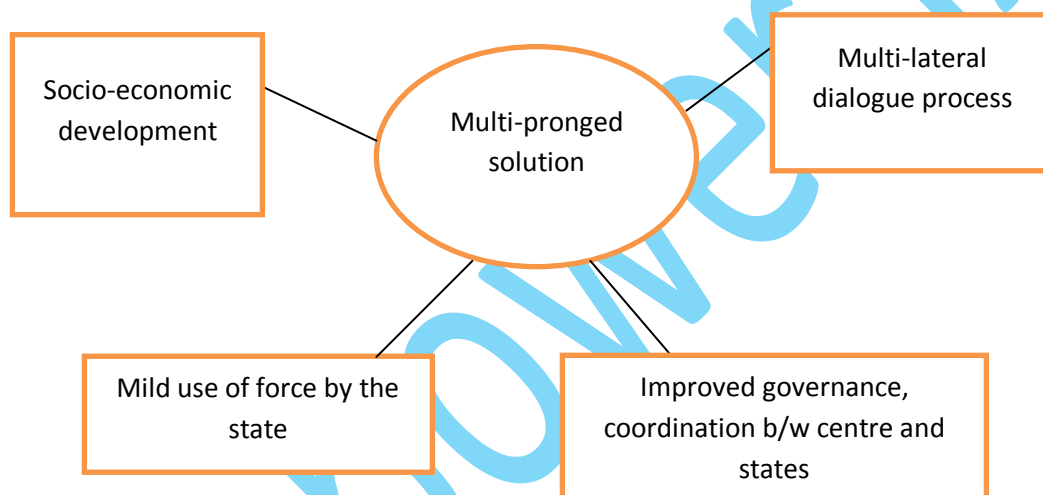


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To make matters worse, the government has used 'brute force' as a major strategy to tackle the Naxalite problems which causes more problems than rectifying them:

- Using troops to carry out extermination operations further **alienates local people**, as they internalise the fact that they are enemies of the state.
- Many **innocent lives are lost during ambush** which triggers a spark of vengeance among families of victims.
- By using force, government **can only suppress Naxalites, not Naxalism**, which demands more sympathetic and ideological counter conditioning.

To address the root cause government should follow a **sympathetic, non-adversarial approach** to the problem, wherein **Naxals are looked upon as victims and not enemies of the state**. The problem calls for a multi-pronged solution:



• Socio-economic development:

- As the Naxalites are fuelled by discontent from the marginalized and the poor, a larger percentage of the national **budget must be focused on developing these development starved regions** through initiatives regarding health, education, social welfare and rural and urban development.
- Government **service delivery should be improved** in these tribal areas. Both state and government must ensure that things such as **statutory minimum wages, access to land and water sources** initiatives are implemented. If the social needs of these marginalized people are addressed, there will be no discontent to fuel the Naxalite movements.

• Multi-lateral dialogue:



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- The government should initiate sincere **dialogue with these marginalised groups, the Naxalites**, to give them a **feeling and trust of being heard**. The popularity of Naxalites with the adivasis is a reflection of the fact that the government has been unaware of their plight.
- By opening dialogue, the government can give **opportunity for the rebels to join the mainstream** by showing them that solutions can be created together with the government, by being part of the political system in a legitimate way. Example, when Rajiv Gandhi government persuaded rebel leader Laldenga to join legitimate politics which ushered in peace in Mizoram.
- **Military:** Using **military only to combat the Maoist guerrillas, and not the main strategy**. By only using by brute force, government risks alienating civilians who are caught in the middle.
- **Governance:** Law and order is seen as a state subject, hence unless near complete breakdown of public order or until requested by the state, the central government cannot intervene. **Both, centre and states, must complement and support each other's initiatives and strategies.**

Therefore the state must start to fight the conflict legally, minimize collateral damage, and abstain from any human rights violation. The government is running **Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation policy for Naxalites, NREGS, Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas, Skill Development in the LWE affected districts**, which have increased social conditions of these areas to an extent. The Naxalite movement must be challenged politically by presenting better alternatives to the Maoist approach and offer new perspectives.

14. Although migration is a positive concept which leads to many benefits to the society but the pattern of migration in India has resulted into multi-dimensional challenges. Elaborate. Suggest some measures that would be effective in managing migration in India. (15 marks)

Migration of people within a country or beyond in search of better opportunities is a preferred and natural process as it bridges the demand and supply of human resources. According to the 2011 census, India's total population is 1.21 billion, and of this, almost 326 million or 28.5 per cent of the people are internal migrants. Women constitute an overwhelming majority of migrants in India i.e. around 70 per cent mainly as a result of marriage.

Internal migration is a positive concept for socio-economic development as it offers following benefits:

- **Contribution of cities to GDP:** Cities contribution to India's GDP is around 60 per cent, which is expected to rise to 70 per cent by 2030. The rising contribution of cities to India's GDP would not be possible without migration and migrant workers.



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- **Higher rural standards of living fueled by domestic remittances:** The boom in internal labour migration gave rise to a robust domestic remittances market estimated annually at over Rs 1.5 lakh crore, which finances around 30 per cent of consumption of remittances-receiving families.
- **Better allocation of resources:** Migration facilitates growth and poverty reduction through the more efficient allocation of labor to more productive opportunities.
- **Dilution of social differences and evolution of composite culture:** Migration results in intermixing of diverse cultures and leads to the evolution of composite culture. It breaks the narrow thoughts and widens the mental horizon of the people.
- **Social capital:** Migrants bring back to source locations a variety of skills, innovations and knowledge, known as 'social remittances', including changes in tastes, perceptions and attitudes. Migration may provide an opportunity to escape caste divisions and restrictive social norms, and work with dignity and freedom at the destination.

Despite being a positive concept the process of migration in India has been a result of push and distress which has lead to many challenges being faced by the migrants.

Challenges faced by migrants:

Social challenges:

- **Sons of the Soil concept:** Migrants are discriminated against locals in terms of pay scales, housing facilities etc. Recently migrants from Hindi belt of UP and Bihar faced exodus from Gujarat as locals accused migrants of encroaching upon the jobs which they believe belong to them.
- **Social discrimination:** Employment opportunities, the levels of income earned, and the working conditions in destination areas are determined by the migrant's household's social location in his or her village. Migrant workers earn only two-thirds of what is earned by non-migrant workers, according to 2014 data.
- **Migrant women** are paid lesser than male migrants; they don't have facilities like maternity leave, other maternity entitlements, and suffer from problems related from hygiene to sexual harassment.
- **Migrant children** face disruption of regular schooling, adversely affecting their human capital formation and contributing to the inter-generational transmission of poverty.



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Economic challenges:

- **Informal economy:** A migrant's lack of skills creates hindrance in his/her employability in formal employment, which has limited capacity to absorb the large number of rural in-migrants. This has led to the growth of the 'urban informal' economy, which is marked by high poverty and vulnerabilities and constitutes the bulk of urban employment.
- **Housing facilities:** Sudden evictions without adequate rehabilitation, lack of basic infrastructural facilities such as safe drinking water, electricity, sewage etc are basic housing challenges faced by migrants.
- **Rampant exploitation:** Migration flows are mediated by an elaborate chain of middlemen who recruiting workers. Middlemen usually exploit workers as there are no written contracts regarding wages or regarding regular provision of work.

Challenges resulting from state negligence:

- **Political exclusion:** Internal migrants cannot vote unless they travel back to their home constituencies which strip them off their voting rights. Because of this, migrant workers are often left unable to make political demands for entitlements or seek reforms.
- **Physical violence:** Lack of adequate employment opportunities often results into migrants turning into victims of violence at the hands of locals and due to populist pressure state protection is also found wanting.
- **Victims of prejudice:** Lack of state recognition for migrants and consideration of migrants as a state problem makes migrants victims of prejudice and harassment by citizens, local authorities and police.

Way forward:

Following steps are worth considering for the improvement of condition of migrants:

- **Better data collection:**
 - Revise design of Census and surveys on migration to adequately capture gender specific and age specific data on short-term migration and multiple reasons for migration.



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- Build capacity of panchayats to maintain a database of migrant workers (with details of numbers of migrants and recruitment by contractors) and establish vigilant committees to identify entry of new migrants at the local level.
- **Citizen's Charters in Urban Local Bodies:** Although state laws in India do not discriminate among locals and migrants in matters of provision of services but enforcement is sombre. Hence, citizen's charters could form the basis for migrants' claims to their right to the city as followed in New Delhi, Vishakhapatnam and Coimbatore.
- **Universal minimum social package for migrants:** Develop a universal national minimum social security package covering minimum wages and labour standards and incorporating portability of benefits in all government social protection schemes and public services.
- **Distress migration to assisted migration:** State must play the role of converting distress migration to assisted migration.
- Planned and skilled migration with hand-holding support from the state government and/or private companies and assured placement, through job fairs and employment exchanges, constitutes a new paradigm of migration that demonstrates the potential benefits of assisted migration.
- Ensure access to formal banking facilities for migrants to enable safe and secure transfer of remittances.
- **Revise the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979:** The Act should be revised to include offset following loopholes:
 - The Act applies to only migrants crossing state boundaries and, therefore, a large section of inter-district migrants are excluded from its ambit.
 - It does not monitor unregistered contractors and establishments.
 - It remains silent on provision for crèches, education centres for children or mobile medical units for the labourers.

Piecemeal efforts and schemes to address social, economic and development related challenges faced by internal migrants have limited scope and effect. There is a need to evolve a **National Policy on Internal Migration** which must envelop all the issues discussed above and which would provide an institutional mechanism for dedicated action towards this section.

15. The constitution guarantees traditional rights to tribal areas but these areas contain the much needed natural resources to fuel the growth. How do you think both these issues can be harmonized? (15 marks)

Tribal areas have witnessed large-scale development of industry, mining, infrastructure projects which has caused loss of livelihood and massive displacement. As per **Xaxacommitte report**, about 40 per cent of all



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people displaced due to development activity have been tribals, even though they constitute less than 10 per cent of the total population.

Alienation of tribals from forestland fuels **Left Wing Extremism** in the country. Tribal **rights are regularly flouted** by the state, which is more oriented towards fulfilling contractual obligations of private investor, thus jeopardizing the social justice guaranteed to tribal people. Economic development and protection of tribal rights have to happen together by taking steps which strike equilibrium between both:

Aspects related to legal regulations of tribes and tribal areas:

- Parliament and State laws should not be automatically applied in the **Fifth Schedule areas** (as is presently the case in the Sixth Schedule areas) rather decided by **Governor** after consulting Tribes Advisory Council.
- Restructuring of the **Tribes Advisory Council (TAC)**. Instead of two-thirds elected members, half should be taken from the State Legislature into TAC, who must be inducted from different political parties.
- Funding should not be left to arbitrary discretion of the State Governments and **Autonomous Councils must be covered under State Finance Commission** to review periodically the distribution between State and the Autonomous Council.

Livelihoods of tribal communities:

- Establishing **agro-based training institutions** and related labour-intensive processing industries in tribal regions with reasonable terms and quantum of micro credit.
- The amendments proposed to the **Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled areas) Act** has a prominent component of **prior informed consent** which should be strictly implemented.
- The **implementation of FRA** has hardly taken off. It needs to have a **clear mechanism and plan** for recognition of various community forest rights.

Education policies for Tribals:

- The **purpose of education** in tribal areas, should be to provide children with an **understanding of the environment and society** in which they live and increasing their **capability to earn a livelihood** in the local society
- Considering the marked gender gap in education in tribal society, there is a need for **greater gender focus** to encourage education of girls by providing adequate infrastructure



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- **Inclusion of local culture, folklore and history in the curriculum** to build confidence of tribal children. Inclusion of music, dance, storytelling, theatre, painting, and sports such as football, archery and other popular local sports.

Participatory Health Policy for Tribals:

- Their views and priorities must get due place in any health care program, meant for them by creation of **tribal health assemblies at lower level, tribal health councils at block level and tribes advisory council at state level.**
- To reduce physical distance and cultural distance, **health care delivery to the Scheduled Tribe population should be culture-sensitive and in the local language** in order to overcome this distance.

Land Alienation, Displacement and Enforced Migration:

- As recommended in the PESA Act, every **Gram Sabha should have the power to prevent alienation of tribal land** and further that **minerals should be exploited by tribal people themselves.**
- **Gram Sabha consent should be mandatory for acquisition of land** by the Government for its own use as well.
- **The Gram Sabha should be empowered to restore the alienated land on detection**, pending the long legal battle, in order to potentially discourage a prospective non-tribal buyer of land in Scheduled Areas.
- For **protection of indigenous people in BITs**(Bilateral Investment Treaty) there should be regulatory measures for protecting the rights of tribal people.
- A **national plan of action or a tribal policy** for comprehensive development, which would serve as a road map for the welfare of the tribals, should be prepared and implemented.
- Creating awareness among tribal people by organising workshops and seminars with local officials and human rights groups to promote **awareness of the Forest Rights Act.**

The manner of the integration of the tribals into the wider Indian society will ultimately be determined by political decisions, and these will be made on the basis of moral evaluations. Steps like tribal sub plan, eklavya schools, MGNREGA work in tribal areas are commendable but unless the intellectually leading sections develop a spirit of cultural tolerance and an appreciation for tribal values, even the most elaborate schemes for the economic improvement of tribal populations are likely to prove a failure.



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16. The failure of capitalism around the world has brought Marxist ideas back into focus. In the light of this statement analyse the relevance of Marxism today. (15 marks)

Capitalism is an economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit, rather than by the state. It originated during the Industrial Revolution of England and rapidly spread across the economies during the succeeding centuries. Rapid and remarkable growth of the West and other countries in the post-War period owes much to this system. However, capitalism as a system might be failing due to following observations:

- The world is mired in economic stagnation, financialization, extreme inequality in developed and developing world, accompanied by mass unemployment and underemployment, poverty, hunger etc.
- The digital revolution has rapidly transformed from a promise of free communication and liberated production into new means of surveillance, control, and displacement of the working population.
- The institutions of liberal democracy, which form the support pillars of capitalism, are at the point of collapse, while fascism and protectionism is again on the march, along with patriarchy, racism, neo-imperialism, and war.
- Chinese capitalism is characterized by low wages to workers, denial of workers' rights and lack of freedom of self-organization.

World is witnessing a failure of capitalist philosophy and this points towards a revision, relook and the re-introduction of socialism/ Marxism. Current politico-economic problems highlight the contemporary relevance of Marxism which can be established on the following basis:

- Marx developed scientific methods of analysis, be it for analysing economy, history, class structure or the very basis of the capitalist system which is surviving on the basis of projections, estimations and hollow rhetoric.
- Marxism transcends capitalism by destroying the latter's exploitative elements (the domination of capital and market relations), which were originally necessary for progress. It can be now used to develop a system needed for shaping an economy for public good rather than private profit, and real participatory democracy.
- Electronic communication under neo-liberalism influences the production in low income countries and extends the class conflict in the new world. Marxism socialism ensures justice and justice and equal rights before the law instead of new forms of exploitation.

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- Marxism helps to understand the dynamic of a society in its entirety; this means with all its different classes and members, because Marx looks at the development from an historical perspective and can therefore identify the movements and preferences of that society.
- Marx's theory on different classes within the society can provide valuable suggestions on how these classes can interrelate to form a whole and therefore demonstrate society's functionality as one single unit.

17. Recently a report highlighted the alarming intensity of melting in the Hindu Kush Himalayas. What changes will take place as a result of this melting? What action can be taken as a response to this emergency? (15 marks)

The Hindu Kush region spans across 8 countries including India which has the highest population living in the **Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH)** i.e. 50.3 million, distributed across its 11 mountain states. These 11 states are critically dependent on Hindu Kush region for water resource for drinking, agriculture and power generation purposes etc. Any major change in the mountain ecology would have unforeseen effects on regional climate, local rainfall patterns, water flow in rivers, species diversity and cropping patterns etc.



Recently a report, '**Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment: Mountains, Climate Change, Sustainability, and People**', was released by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), an intergovernmental organization in Kathmandu (Nepal). The report highlights the effect of climate change on Hindu Kush glacier region and its consequences on economy, geography and ecology of Hindu Kush Himalayas.

Following changes are predicted as a result of melting of HKH:



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- Glacier volumes are projected to decline by up to 90% through the 21st century in response to decreased snowfall, increased snowline elevations, and longer melt seasons.
- Even if warming can be limited to the ambitious target of +1.5 °C (Paris Climate Deal), this will lead to a 2.1°C rise in the HKH region due to elevation-dependent warming and the region will lose 36% of its glaciers.
- Increase in air pollution in the Himalayas, food insecurity and biodiversity loss.
- **River flows and water availability:** Melting glaciers will increase river flows, pushing up risks of high-altitude lakes bursting their banks causing floods (glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs)). From 2060s, however, river flows will decline.
- **Drying Springs:** As per the report of the NITI Aayog, 30% of springs in the Indian Himalaya have dried up due to reasons including receding glaciers.
- **Impact on Monsoon:** The HKH region is also crucial as it controls the monsoon system – which South Asia relies on for most of its rainfall. Shifting monsoon patterns will lead to intense precipitation which would increase the risk of floods, landslides and soil erosion.

Way forward

In the event of these findings following recommendations would be effective in making positive interventions in the Hindu Kush Himalaya Region:

- **Comprehensive and trans-boundary cooperation:** The complexity of interactions demand more comprehensive and integrated strategies to be adopted in a timely manner i.e. incorporating globally recognized mountain priorities, promoting trans-boundary cooperation, and encouraging development of mountain specific responses by government policy makers.
- **Bottom-up planning:** Large-scale sustainable development investment with regional cooperation and bottom-up investment with local and national cooperation should be promoted.
- **Better monitoring of changes:** Improved long-term hydro-meteorological monitoring is necessary for more robust climate change analysis and adaptation planning.
- **Improved disaster warnings:** Policies should focus on improved disaster warning systems and mitigation measures to address hydro-meteorological extremes.



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- **Better flow management:** Ensuring regional water security requires proactive HKH-wide cooperation, including:
 - Open data sharing among scientists and ministry or agency personnel;
 - Conflict management via creation of regional platforms;
 - Enhancing public awareness.
- **Water benefit sharing:** Appropriate benefit-sharing norms are needed to ensure that mountain people also benefit from the region's vast hydropower potential.
- **Mountain perspective in national policies:** National policies should include ways for revitalizing local food systems, strengthening social safety nets, enhancing knowledge and awareness about nutrition.
- **Area-specific strategies:** For example, focusing on market access in areas where market access is less, focus on non-farm activities in areas with low agro-ecological potential etc.
- **Improved resilience:** All stakeholders – including governments, individuals, households, and communities – need to enhance resilience through four pillars: information, infrastructure, institutions, and insurance.
- **Gender role:** All levels of government must allocate resources, financial and human, for gender responsive interventions and adopt accountability mechanisms, such as gender budgeting, to demonstrate their commitment to gender equality.

Achieving food, water, energy, and livelihood security and sustainability in the region will require scientific community, policy-makers, the private sector, and community stakeholders across the region, including all countries, to come together and make optimal governance decisions.

18. Recently an ILO report highlighted India amongst the countries with highest gender pay gap. Analyse the reasons behind this huge gender wage gap in India. What steps could be effective in closing this gap? (15 marks)

Recently **Global Wage Report 2018** was released by International Labor Organization (ILO). It is an annual publication of ILO which focuses on different aspects of labour wages and its impact on equitable growth and social justice.

The report highlighted following facts about India:



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- India and Pakistan had the highest gender pay gap (difference between hourly wages of men and women).
- India has one of the highest Gender Pay Gap of 34%.
- Low levels of wages in India can become an obstacle to sustainable economic growth as consumption demand cannot increase with low wages.
- Gender pay gap widens with the years of experience and it is moderate in the initial years. For those with over 10 years of experience, the gender pay gap in favour of men reaches the peak.

The huge gap between male and female wage in India are a result of social, legal, cultural and psychological barriers raised by society. Some of these reasons are:

- **Occupational segregation:** The women are mostly deemed fit for “pink collar jobs” only, such as teachers, nurses, receptionist, baby sitter, lecturer etc. which have been stereotyped for women. This denies them opportunities in other fields.
- **Cultural and social barriers:** Apart from less education opportunities available to women the primary responsibility of taking care of family and bringing up the child is still on the women.
- **Unpaid household work done by women:** Women household work is unpaid and not counted as an economic activity.
- **Familial constraints:** Companies prefer young women because it has been generally seen that the work and the family environment, marriage and maternity generally forces a married woman for resignation.
- **Unemployment related challenge:** Unemployment hurts women more because there already exist fewer opportunities for women and in case of high unemployment women prefer and accept even lower pay.

Way forward

Parity in wages is a fundamental right of women as per the Constitution, however this right is hardly called into action by women and is neither realized by the employers. Following steps might be taken in order to reduce the gender gap in wages:

- **Political commitment and social transformation** leading to shifting social norms and eliminating gender stereotypes.



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- A **well designed minimum wage** with broad legal coverage could reduce the gender pay gap at lower wage levels, greater representation of women in senior and highly paid positions could have a positive effect at the top levels.
- **Reducing occupational segregation of women** (such as nurses) is required. E.g. to attract more women into the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), which offer better paid employment opportunities.
- **Promoting equitable sharing of family duties** between women and men and programmes supporting women's return to work after childbirth, as well as providing childcare and eldercare services will help in reducing Motherhood Pay Gap.
- **Better skill development and vocational trainings** to improve wage growth at lower paying jobs and reduce the gap between high and low paying jobs.

19. India is witnessing an increase in deaths due to manual scavenging. What legal safeguards exist for the protection of manual scavengers in India? Do you think the elimination of this practice requires a changed approach? (15 marks)

As per **International Labour Organization** manual scavenging involves removal of human excreta from public streets and dry latrines, and cleaning septic tanks, sewers and gutters. According to **National Commission for SafaiKaramcharis (NCSK)** since January 1, 2017, one person has died every five days, on an average, while cleaning sewers and septic tanks across the country. Manual scavengers risk infection by coming in contact with wastes and die as young as 40, falling prey to multiple health issues: cholera, hepatitis, meningitis, typhoid and cardio-vascular problems.

Manual scavenging is prohibited by both international and Indian law. International agencies such as the UNICEF (as a water and sanitary issue), the WHO (as a health issue), the UNDP and the ILO have all called for an end to the practice. In India following provisions are worth noting:

- India's Constitution bans the practice of untouchability, and the **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955**, prohibits compelling anyone to practice manual scavenging.
- Under the Constitution human dignity is an inalienable right which is part of the fundamental right to life under Article 21.
- Aimed specifically at ending manual scavenging, **The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993** declared the employment of manual scavengers and construction of dry toilets to be punishable with fines and imprisonment.



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- Superseding the 1993 Act, **The Prohibition of Employment As Manual Scavengers Act, 2013** goes beyond prohibitions on dry latrines, and outlaws all manual excrement cleaning of insanitary latrines, open drains, or pits. It also recognizes a constitutional obligation to correct the historical injustice and indignity suffered by manual scavenging communities by providing alternate livelihoods and other assistance.

However, despite such legal and constitutional safeguards, **manual scavengers remain victims of discrimination**. There are a number of reasons for this.

- Although central law has been formulated to curb manual scavenging but **sanitation being a State subject**, it requires States' support which is feeble.
- The law requires that the rehabilitation of scavengers has to be carried out as per the existing schemes. But the existing rehabilitation schemes have not been successful in eradicating the practice in the past.
- It is not just the law but the **attitude of public authorities** which aggravates the plight of the scavengers. The Government has repeatedly sought an extension of deadline to implement the manual scavenging law, exhibiting lack of commitment.

Way forward:

The approach needs to be reoriented to include behavioral change as well as strict implementation of laws. This includes:

- State must **take up faecal sludge management as a priority**. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, millions of septic tanks are being built in rural India and if governments do not take up faecal sludge management as a priority, the practice will spread further.
- Using technological solutions to turn the crisis may be a solution. Hyderabad Municipality has deployed **70 mini jetting machines which can** easily enter the narrow lanes and smaller colonies to clear the choked sewer pipes (drainages). **Bandicoot**- India's first 'manhole cleaning robot' is an exoskeleton robot which cleans manholes without the need for humans to enter the pit.
- **Officials found derelicting their duty must be held accountable** for properly enforcing relevant laws, including the 2013 Act and The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.



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- The **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** should make expansion of the sewer network a top priority and come up with a scheme for scientific maintenance that will end manual cleaning of septic tanks to achieve its target of eradicating manual scavenging by 2019.
- As per NCSK data, the Rs 10 lakh compensation that is mandated under law in case of manual scavenging deaths has been paid in only 70 of the 123 cases since January 2017. Dalits must be **empowered through education and economic uplift** and their compensation should be paid immediately.
- It is a social and gender issue and can be eradicated by **sensitising people** about its ills. Government must shift its focus now from Swachh Bharat Abhiyan which has given good results to eradication of manual scavenging through social media campaigns, Mann Ki Baat, advertisements etc.

20. India is expected to add the largest number of urban dwellers by 2050. In the light of this statement highlight the urbanization related challenges in India. What steps can be taken to manage this proposed large scale urbanization in India? (15 marks)

Delhi is projected to become the most populous city in the world around 2028, according to World Urbanisation Prospects 2018 released by **UN Department Of Economic And Social Affairs (UN DESA)**. As per the report, India is expected to add the largest number of urban dwellers by 2050 and its urban population would rise to 52.8% by then. However, these projections would lead to many socio-economic challenges in urban cities if not managed accordingly.

Urbanization in India increased from 27.81 per cent in 2001 to 31.16 per cent in 2011; however this rapid decadal growth in urbanization is not a result of the pull factors or opportunities in cities but majorly due to push factors created by agricultural distress. This has flooded people into few urban cities and has resulted into a literal breakdown of the civic system giving rise to many problems:

- **Urban poverty and unemployment:** With increasing urban population the urban poverty has also become widespread and there has been “urbanization of poverty” with the ratio of urban poverty in some of the larger states being higher than that of rural poverty.
- **Proliferation of slums:** The total slum population in India represents 15% of the total urban population in the country and 23.1% of the population of cities and towns reporting slums.
- **Unaffordable housing and services:** Inappropriate planning has led to **high costs of housing and office spaces** in cities which cannot be afforded by common and poor citizens.



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- **Critical infrastructure shortages:** Major service deficiencies occur due to unplanned urbanization like erratic power and water supply, poor solid waste management system, poor sewerage system.
- **Deteriorating environment:** Haphazard urbanization leads to degradation of environment through changes like decrease in air quality, water pollution, heat island effect and related warming, concretization of open spaces and resulting depletion of underground water levels etc.

Way forward

Steps that can be taken to manage and control harmful effects of urbanization include:

- **Role of Tier 2 and 3 cities:** Tier 2 and 3 cities can play an important role in absorbing excess rural-urban migration. Agri-based industries in these cities can serve as a market for rural produce, while also acting as markets for urban services sector industries.
- **Inter-district and inter-state coordination committees:** Creation of inter-district and inter-state coordination committees to jointly plan institutional arrangements between the administrative jurisdictions of places from where people are moving out and urban centres to ensure assisted urbanization rather than distress migration.
- **Opportunities at the source and destination of migrants:**
 - **Source regions:** Minimize the distress nature of migration by adopting pro-poor development strategies in backward areas, including providing sustainable livelihood opportunities, increased access to land, common property resources.
 - **Destination cities:** Social and physical infrastructure and governance institutions in sending areas and strengthening programmes such as MGNREGA, food security programmes and creating opportunities for access to credit.
- **Development of infrastructural facilities:** In rural areas government must focus on the improvement of physical and social infrastructure through schemes like PURA (Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Area), Shyama Prasad Mookherji RURBAN Mission etc.
 - **Ensuring Good Governance in urban areas through:**
 - Fiscal decentralization and flow of adequate funds; proper regulation of municipal bonds
 - Empowerment of municipal corporations and municipal councils
 - Transparency and accountability
 - Citizen participation.



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Empower IAS