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# MONTHLY MAINSTORMING

OCTOBER  
2022

A compilation of Mains questions with model answers, from Current Affairs of the month



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## MONTHLY MAINSTORMING

OCTOBER 2022

### G.S PAPER I

#### 1. SOCIETY

*Philanthropy, private capital along with governmental policies can be eventually scaled to alleviate poverty in the country. Analyse*

#### KEY POINTS

- The recession brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic pushed 75 million more people in India into poverty last year.
- The 2020 UNDP Human Development Report added little cheer; India was down two places at 131.
- India was ranked 101 out of 116 nations mapped in the Global Hunger Index 2021, which takes factors like inadequate food supply, child mortality, and child undernutrition into consideration.
- India was ranked 101 out of 116 nations mapped in the Global Hunger Index 2021, which takes factors like inadequate food supply, child mortality, and child undernutrition into consideration.
- According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's Consumer Pyramids Household Survey, the month of September 2021 alone saw as many as 85 lakh new jobs.<sup>5</sup>
- For instance, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has partnered with Central Square Foundation, which works to improve the quality of education for low-income students by supporting State governments in improving foundational literacy and numeracy outcomes, amplified through technology.
- Philanthropy can be the catalyst for innovation and action, while markets and governments can bring the much-needed scale to these on-ground efforts.
- Today, India's dairy farmers are well-informed about efficient milk production technologies and their economics.

## G. S PAPER - II

### 2. GOVERNMENT POLICIES

#### ***Critically analyse the draft of Indian Telecommunications bill 2022 released by the Government of India***

##### **KEY POINTS**

- It is indeed timely that the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has released the draft Indian Telecommunications Bill 2022, replacing the age old Indian Telegraph Act of 1885.

##### **Positive side**

- It is stated clearly that any revisions to the telecom policies, including licensing conditions and payment, will not have any retrospective effect. This provides certainty to the firms.
- The need for verifiable identification of the calling party to be displayed to the receiver to limit the ubiquitous unsolicited commercial calls.
- Bill recognises the optimal utilisation of radio spectrum for commercial mobile services and provides the way forward for spectrum trading.
- This provides opportunities for the government to allocate spectrum using other methodologies such as administrative or beauty parade as applicable in specific use cases.

##### **Criticisms**

- Though the policy makers have attempted to re-define telecommunication services to include all forms of digital communication including Over The Top (OTT) communication.
- OTTs do not have the same type of exclusive privileges and access and hence they have not been regulated until now.
- OTTs under a light touch regulation is needed due to their power in capturing and using Personal Information (PI) of the consumers.
- The total absence of any modification to the role of the Telecommunications Regulatory of Authority of India (TRAI), except for cosmetic changes to the TRAI Act 1997.

#### ***Is there a need for Government of India to upgrade its holistic National Population policy 2000? Analyse***

##### **KEY POINTS**

- According to the 2018-19 Economic Survey, India's demographic dividend will peak around 2041, when the share of the working age population is expected to hit 59%.
- As fertility drops and lifespans rise globally, the world is ageing at a significant pace.
- China's one-child policy led to a sharp reduction in the population growth rate. But now the Chinese have a rapidly rising population of the elderly.

- Especially in the case of the elderly, where the estimates show that 12% of India's total population by 2025 is going to be the elderly.
- Ageing is also a gender issue as two-thirds of the elderly are women, because women tend to live longer than men do.
- Economic policy should be geared towards the skilling and education of our large adolescent population with a special focus on gender.
- Special attention must be given to addressing ways in which the pandemic may have affected the lives of our adolescent and youth.
- India has a very good population policy, which was designed in 2000. And States also have their population policies.
- Although we use the term population policy, population control still remains a part of our dialogue.

***The Direct benefit transfer scheme has produced a great impact in improving social welfare in India. Discuss***

**KEY POINTS**

- India's public welfare schemes reflected a feeling of helplessness at the highest levels in dealing with this gnawing problem.
- India has come a long way since then, especially in the last eight years, primarily on account of the aggressive rollout of the DBT programme that transfers subsidies and cash benefits directly to beneficiaries through Aadhaar-linked bank accounts.
- DBT alone would not have been able to address the size and scale of the problem of sub-optimal service delivery under government machinery.
- In a mission-mode approach, it endeavoured to open bank accounts for all households, expanded Aadhaar to all, and scaled up the coverage of banking and telecom services.
- The Aadhaar-enabled Payment System and Unified Payment Interface further expanded interoperability and private-sector participation.
- This approach not only allowed all rural and urban households to be uniquely linked under varied government schemes for receiving subsidies directly into their bank accounts but also transferred money with ease.
- In urban India, the PM Awas Yojana and LPG Pahal scheme successfully use DBT to transfer funds to eligible beneficiaries.
- Going forward, the DBT approach is expected to expand further in size and structure as it continues to be the major tool of the government for a more nuanced and targeted intervention towards improving the ease of living.

***India definitely has the potential to feed the world and become one of the top food exporters by 2030. Explain***

**KEY POINTS**

- According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, agri-food exports from India increased 28 per cent in FY21 to around \$30 billion, making up approximately 10 per cent of total exports.
- The country ranks second globally in agricultural production, at \$367 billion, yet India's share in global agri-produce exports is negligible.
- Over 95 per cent of India's farm produce is consumed domestically. Therefore, exports haven't been an avenue explored by many farmers.
- Currently, only a few Indian farmers have the scale and financial capacity to fulfil export compliances and connect with the GVCs.
- Millets are one of the oldest foods known to humans and possibly the first among cereal grains to be cultivated for domestic purposes
- India's GI-tagged Alphonso mango, Indian gooseberry, tribal millets, and other niche products are already reaching new markets through the Indian immigrant community.
- The front-end support to put Indian produce on the map and assure the importers from other markets about quality standards and predictable, timely supply is urgently required.
- In short, India definitely has the potential to feed the world and become one of the top food exporters by 2030. We should not let this opportunity go to waste by acting now and turning our vast potential into reality.

***Instead of downsizing government schemes and cutting their funding, ensuring better public service delivery must be concentrated. Justify***

**KEY POINTS**

- Over the past three years, over 50% of existing central government-sponsored schemes have been discontinued, subsumed, revamped or rationalised into other schemes.
- The Nirbhaya fund (2013) with its focus on funding projects to improve the public safety of women in public spaces and encourage their participation in economic and social activities is an interesting case; Rs. 1,000 crore was allocated to the fund annually (2013-16),
- Farmers have not been spared either with fertilizer subsidies having been in decline over the last few years; actual government spending on fertilizers in FY20-21 reached Rs. 1,27,921 crore.
- In the FY21-22 Budget, the allocation was Rs. 79,529 crore (later revised to Rs. 1,40,122 crore amidst the COVID-19 pandemic).
- The allocation for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) went down by approximately 25% in the FY22-23 Budget earlier this year, with the allocated budget at Rs. 73,000 crore when compared to the FY21-22 revised estimates of Rs. 98,000 crore.
- After the Goods and Services Tax reform, the Centre-State relationship has been transformed, with fiscal firepower skewed towards the Centre.
- We need to build capacity for an efficient civil service to meet today's challenges, i.e., providing a corruption-free welfare system, running a modern economy and providing better public goods.

### 3. POLITY

***How are the Centre and inter-State river disputes resolved? Discuss this in the context of the recent major river disputes in India.***

#### KEY POINTS

- It's the duty of the Centre to ensure water for Punjab and Haryana, not to make them fight”.
- Apart from Punjab, many states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka have complained of inadequate disbursement of funds by Centre, claiming that the delay has caused stalling of important dam projects.
- Moreover, States have often accused the Centre of hogging the credit for several such developments achieved by State governments in their area.
- Subjects like electricity, water resources, law and order, judiciary, and finance have a power overlap between Centre and States in the Constitution leading to a tussle between the Centre and States.
- One of the major water-related issues tasked to the Centre, inter-State river disputes in India are governed by the Inter-State River Water Dispute Act, 1956.
- Apart from resolving water disputes, the Centre has also listed 111 inland rivers as National Waterways in The National Waterways Bill, 2015, empowering it to create laws on shipping and travel on the listed waterways.
- The right to clean drinking water has been read into the right to life under Article 21 of the constitution.
- Water has been deemed a fundamental resource and the Centre and States have been tasked to make policies to distribute water among people.

### 4. HEALTH

***The recent launch of an indigenously developed cervical cancer vaccine is a historic milestone in preventive healthcare. Explain***

#### KEY POINTS

- Cervical cancer, the second most common cancer in females after breast cancer, is a major threat faced by women in India.
- Reports suggest that over 15 per cent of the total cervical cancer deaths in the world occur in India.
- Cervical cancer is associated with Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection, as the HPV virus is found in more than 90 per cent of cervical cancers.
- Certain types of the HPV virus can transform normal cervical cells into abnormal ones, and over a long period, some of these abnormal cells may then develop into cervical cancer.
- With HPV vaccines now available, vaccination against HPV is the best way to prevent cervical cancer.
- A vaccine that protects women from cervical cancer would also help in preventing the devastating impact resulting from psychological and financial hardships.

- The affordable price of the indigenous vaccine will help to increase the accessibility of the vaccine and deliver crucial benefits in decreasing the incidence and fatality due to cancer.
- The vaccine priced at a tenth of the imported ones should be included in the National Immunisation Programme to increase its availability and reach.
- Therefore, this vaccine shines bright as a milestone in providing a truly equitable pathway to access and contributing to saving countless lives.

***The Government of India must ensure stringent quality controls on drug exports and contain the reputational damage. Discuss***

**KEY POINTS**

- It is easily among the biggest tragedies in living memory, domestic drugmakers say. Sixty-six young lives lost in Gambia, possibly from the consumption of four “contaminated” paediatric cough syrups from India.
- The possibility of contamination tells a tale of a larger concern on sourcing and manufacturing across products a supply chain that makes the difference between life and death, especially when it comes to medicines.
- In this case, early investigations point to the presence of the toxic DEG (di-ethylene glycol). And this could be from a possible adulteration of the solvent that is usually used (propylene glycol) with a less expensive solvent (DEG), explain industry-insiders.
- The ethical obligation is a good enough reason for drug companies of all hues and sizes to ensure safe medicines are distributed inside and outside the country.
- The WHO and other UN agencies procure medicines, syringes, and vaccines from Indian companies.
- This was followed by reputed industry players adopting anti-counterfeiting technologies. Indian authorities further mandated companies to adopt track and trace technologies to prevent supply mishaps.
- There is no time to lose. Between the business of dealing in medicines and the ethics of it, Indian authorities need to act quickly and decisively.

***Even though there is a flaw in the latest Global Hunger Report, prevalence of undernourishment in the country can't be ignored. Elaborate***

**KEY POINTS**

- The Global Hunger Index, a peer reviewed annual publication from Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, has set off a controversy with its low ranking assigned to India in 2022.
- The report calls India's score of 29.1 as 'serious' but the government has refused to accept it with the Ministry of Child and Family Welfare terming the index 'an erroneous measure of hunger and suffering from serious methodological issues'.
- But the GHI has captured undernourishment in India through Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) survey conducted through Gallup World poll, with a sample size of just 3,000
- Besides this, the mean values used in the GHI to measure stunting and wasting may not be strictly applicable to India, given the genetic differences.

- The National Family Health Survey, 2019-21 shows under-five years mortality rate at 42 per 1,000 live births. Stunting of children under five was 36 per cent and wasting at 19 per cent.
- The Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 scheme which have subsumed Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent Girls under the ICDS seek to address the problem of undernourishment in the country in early childhood and thereafter.
- Budgetary allocations need to be larger; the sum set aside for the schemes have remained almost unchanged in Budget 2022-23.

***Hunger and Malnourishment are two different things. Discuss this in the context of Global Hunger Index, 2022. Also, suggest measures to deal with malnourishment in India.***

#### KEY POINTS

- The GHI's stated aim is to reduce hunger around the world. But its methodology focuses disproportionately on less than five-year-olds.
- India is the world's largest producer and consumer of grain and the largest producer of milk; when the per capita intake of grain, vegetables and milk has increased manifold.
- Unlike the GHI, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) does a good job of providing comparative state-level data, including the main pointers that determine health and nutrition.
- According to NFHS 5, in India, the percentage improvement of children who were exclusively breastfed when under six months, rose from 55 per cent in NFHS 4 to 64 per cent in NFHS 5.
- NFHS says that only 42 per cent of infants are breastfed within one hour of birth, which is the recommended norm.
- Prolonging breastfeeding well beyond the recommended six months and giving food lacking in nutritional diversity.
- NFHS 5 shows that the improvement has been marginal over the last two reports and surprisingly, states like Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Assam, UP and Gujarat are at the tail end.
- Helping mothers to better the lives of their infants and toddlers right inside the home by measuring and demonstrating how much diet, food intake and child-rearing practices matter.

## 5. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

***With respect to G-20 presidency, India can learn a lot from Indonesia's achievements. Elaborate***

### KEY POINTS

- Indonesia has just reached an important milestone of its G20 Presidency – the Think20 Summit that took place in Bali.
- India needs to reflect on its own strengths and weaknesses as it readies for its presidency year starting 2022.
- Hosting the G20 should not be seen merely as a giant tourism and investment promotion opportunity.
- It requires dedicated and consistent policy engagement at every level, including the academic and business community.
- Indonesia's achievements are testimony to the virtues of not going it alone. Irrespective of its own large, expanding domestic market, Indonesia is a trading nation.
- Asia relationships are ASEAN-centred but they are book-ended by strong educational linkages with Australia and long-term investment partnerships with Japan.
- The chambers of commerce lean toward event management and lobbying for their members, with whom the fear of non-defensive engagement is high.
- India can shore up engagement with the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), and members of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) can be exposed, at India's invitation, to the G20 processes.
- It will help India shed its negotiating reputation as a country that seeks explicit bilateral reciprocity and trade-offs, rather than seeking to build coalitions.

***Examine the nature of India's stand with respect to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.***

### KEY POINTS

- The Government was involved in the evacuation of about 20,000 Indian students.
- Prime Minister of India told that there is no military solution to the conflict. India chose to abstain from voting against Russia for conducting referendums and annexing Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, although neither leader referred to it.
- The critical importance of nuclear safety, particularly the Zaporizhzhia plant, that has been of much concern for the IAEA, which is involved in brokering talks between Ukraine and Russia to enforce a nuclear protective zone around it.
- Over the past seven months, the war and western sanctions have had a dramatic impact on global security, food, fuel and energy supplies, and it is important to keep the lines of communication open.
- India has an established record in global peacemaking. However, New Delhi can only play that part if it also sets out its position more clearly, and links it to its actions on the global stage.

- The Government's defiance of western sanctions on oil and defence trade is understandable in terms of defending India's national interests.
- However, it is harder to correlate External Affairs Minister remarks, on adherence to the UN charter and the importance of protecting territorial sovereignty.
- India continues to abstain on all votes that criticise Russia's actions in Ukraine: including the bombing of civilians, and the annexation of occupied territories.

### ***India's Presidency of the G20, SCO and UNSC is a historic opportunity for reinventing the United Nations. Explain***

#### **KEY POINTS**

- The United Nations claims to be the one place where all the world's nations can discuss common problems and find shared solutions that benefit all of humanity.
- India's Presidency of the Group of 20, UN Security Council (UNSC) in 2022, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in 2023 when major powers are not even talking to each other and India alone.
- multilateralism is under challenge even by its proponent, with the United States opting for partnerships, with the most important areas being the worst affected.
- The G7 Summit, held in June, endorsed the goals of a cooperative international Climate Club to accelerate climate action outside the UN.
- China's Global Development Initiative, 2021, and linked Global Security Initiative, 2022, is developing a conceptual frame responding to an urbanising world.
- 'Rio principles' continue to guide climate change, vasudhaiva kutumbakam, or 'world as one family', focusing on comparable levels of wellbeing can be the core of a set of universal socio-economic principles for a dialogue between the states.
- India's Presidential statement could introduce 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam' in the UNSC in December. The SCO Summit will precede the G20 Summit and acceptance of overarching principles will support acceptance by the wider G20.

### ***The economic slowdown in US and Europe is expected to hit growth of Start-ups in India. Comment***

#### **KEY POINTS**

- A recent survey of early-stage VC investment firms, to understand whether the slowdown in VC investing in the US and Europe applied similarly to the Global South, showed that it is largely consistent with the experience in India
- Valuations are coming down, slowly (as is typical during VC slowdowns). On average, pricing of earlier-stage deals are 15-20 per cent lower, and later-stage deals by over 30 per cent.

- Sectors that serve India's domestic consumption are likely to do fine, while others that are more deeply bound to demand from the US and Europe are likely to take a hit.
- From an early-stage VC perspective, companies in fintech, edtech, and mass e-commerce are likely to continue to do well, provided they are not in the group of later-stage overvalued companies that were pursuing growth-at-all-cost programmes.
- Most reckless-spending founders have now come to face the harsh truth growth-at-all-costs is no longer in vogue and the flood of abundant capital has ended.
- The philosophy today is to identify companies with the holy trinity of success solving problems for the masses, sound unit economics, and resilient founders.
- Finally, it boils down to the founders' resilience and agility. It is not for nothing that they say, tough times never last but tough people do.

***Free Trade Agreements in India should not only meet its economic goals but also social or geo-strategic objectives. Explain***

**KEY POINTS**

- India's FTA strategy is premised on using these agreements to secure markets for its goods and services.
- Mandating almost unrestricted cross-border data flows and prohibition on localisation of servers will prevent India from leveraging its huge data advantage for creating a vibrant domestic digital economy.
- Thus, FTA provisions on digital economy are likely to make India overwhelmingly dependent on imported digital products, thereby compromising Atmanirbhar Bharat in the digital sector.
- Turning to trade and environment, the provisions in the existing FTAs of UK, EU and Canada are likely to undermine domestic manufacturing in India.
- Another risk to domestic manufacturing arises from the likely commitment to adopt high standards of environmental protection, or a move towards harmonisation of environmental standards.
- Further, provisions in the FTAs are likely to create windows for our FTA partners to impose non-tariff barriers on India's exports.
- This will substantially nullify the prospects for enhancing our exports, which might otherwise be available through tariff reductions by our FTA partners.
- In conclusion, the writing on the wall is clear. In the quest for enhancing its exports of goods and services by a few billion dollars through FTAs with the UK, EU and Canada.

## G. S PAPER - III

### 6. ECONOMY

***Discuss the pivotal role of Competition commission of India with respect to the framework of anti-poaching labour pacts.***

#### KEY POINTS

- The recent no-poaching agreement between India's two largest business houses Adani Group and Reliance Industries is interesting from a competition law and policy perspective.
- Competition concerns arise not only in the context of goods and services but also in the labour market due to collusive arrangements between competing employers and non-compete agreements between employers and employees.
- Such behaviour can take the form of wage-fixing agreements between employers to increase wages by an agreed percentage to maintain or lower wages.
- The Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission in the US have been extremely proactive in this area and they have even issued guidance on how the competition law would apply to labour markets.
- Thus, despite established global precedents of matured jurisdictions, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has been quite reticent in asserting its role in this area, treading rather cautiously.
- The current competition law framework in India allows enforcement and advocacy actions in labour input markets.
- The CCI should examine these industry practices closely as the Ambani-Adani no-poach deal is just a tip of the iceberg. The CCI needs to shed its laissez faire approach to labour markets and exercise its mandate which is quite empowering.

***The Security Exchange Board of India has brought several measures to give fillip to capital markets in the country. Discuss***

#### KEY POINTS

- The regulator has mandated disclosures for IPO-bound companies in the form of key performance indicators and price per share of issuers based on past transactions and fundraising.
- Non-promoter shareholders offering shares through the offer for sale (OFS) mechanism no longer have to hold a minimum of 10% in the company to offload the shares.
- All shareholders holding Rs 25 crore and more will be eligible. Retail investors have been allowed to bid for the unsubscribed portion of non-retail segment.
- This will particularly benefit consumer-facing companies and public sector undertakings that seek wider retail participation.
- The other change that will benefit PSUs is the scrapping of the requirement of calculating 60 days' volume-weighted average price for determination of open offer price during disinvestment.

- Alternative investment fund regulations have been amended to prescribe the timeline for declaring 'first close' of a scheme along with the minimum corpus at which the first close may be declared.
- This is welcome as regulations were silent on when a fund needs to be launched or complete its first close after it is registered with Sebi.
- The regulator's move to bring mutual funds under the ambit of insider trading regulations has been generally viewed unfavourably, especially because it seems to be the result of misdeeds committed by a single fund house.

***The ambiguities in the Indian Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) law is weakening its efficiency. In this context, suggest measures to be taken to strengthen the CSR framework in India?***

**KEY POINTS**

- Ever since the establishment of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) regime in India under Section 135 of the Companies Act 2013, CSR spending in India has risen from Rs.10,065 crore in 2014-15 to Rs.24,865 crore in 2020-21.
- If a company spends an amount in excess of the minimum 2%, as stipulated, the excess amount is liable to be set off against spending in the succeeding three financial years.
- The latter proviso in the Act weakens the former provision since the requirement of 2% is only a minimum requirement.
- A high-level committee observed in 2018 that the emphasis on 'local area' in the Act is only directionary and that a balance has to be maintained.
- The Standing Committee on Finance had also observed that the information regarding CSR spending by companies is insufficient and difficult to access.
- Invest India's 'Corporate Social Responsibility Projects Repository' on the India Investment Grid (IIG) can serve as a guide for such efforts.
- This model would be very useful for supporting deserving projects in the 112 aspirational districts and projects identified by MPs under the Government's Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana.
- CSR non-spend, underspend, and overspend should be qualified by the auditor in the audit report as a qualification to accounts, and not just as a note to accounts.

***Critically analyse the impact of moonlighting on the individual and the organisation?***

**KEY POINTS**

- Kotak Securities said in a study that at least 60% of 400 employees surveyed said they themselves had, or knew someone who had engaged in moonlighting.
- Moonlighting is subject to law of the land. The sphere of employment cannot be extended by the employer beyond working hours and outside his place of employment, which is the principle laid down in the above judgment.
- The Courts of law in India dealing with employment are Writ Courts and Labour Courts.

- These Courts exercise jurisdiction based on equity or fairness. Therefore, the Courts may lean in favour of the employee unless the contravention of the employee has led to serious prejudice and loss to the employer, he adds.
- The Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Electronics and IT, said that employers should not to suppress employees who want to monetise, develop and demonstrate but also urged employees not to violate their agreements with employers.
- In today's world, every company ought to have a gig economy strategy. Not having one is like missing the Internet revolution of 1990 or the mobile revolution in 2010.
- In the last century, work from home was never thought of. But in the current times, it has become a common norm.

***Apprenticeship can be an effective tool in creating a job-ready workforce for the youth in the country. Discuss***

**KEY POINTS**

- The India Skills Report 2022 reveals that employability across most education streams is in the range of 40-55 per cent.
- In a country that has an unrivalled youth demographic, we need an effective pathway to make a smooth education to livelihood transition.
- This is minuscule when compared to apprenticeship opportunities the world over 0.5 million in the UK, 3 million in Germany, 10 million in Japan, and 20 million in China.
- Challenges such as lack of awareness and information, perception of over-regulation, and complex enrolment processes have led to this tepid response to apprenticeship in India.
- Introduce apprenticeship as a compulsory component of career guidance and counselling in schools, colleges and vocational institutes.
- Skill ecosystem enablers should reach out to more than one million MSMEs registered on Uddyam platform in a targeted manner to educate, encourage, and support them to hire a few apprentices per year.
- MSME outreach wouldn't be successful without the proactive involvement of local industry chambers and associations.
- Apprenticeship training contracts should be counted as the placement target of the training partners under the skilling scheme's outcome-linked funding.
- Lack of awareness, misconceptions that confuse apprenticeship with internships or unpaid exploitative labour, and ambiguity about the on-boarding process are the most critical roadblocks.

***The idea of fiscal prudence is the key to bring robust macro-economic stability in the country. Analyse***

**KEY POINTS**

- The pandemic has already made debt dynamics unsustainable in several economies.
- IMF research shows that a one percentage point unanticipated contraction fiscal balance reduces the CAD, on average, by 0.8 percentage point of GDP.
- This has accentuated CAD to unsustainable levels in some countries. Careful countervailing policy action is required. Open economy considerations will rule monetary and fiscal policies, going forward.
- Fiscal policy, and not monetary policy, will determine long-term interest rates in the Indian economy. More of fiscal restraint will be needed to avert interest rate shock.
- Macroeconomic conditions are evolving better than anticipated. The key metric of nominal GDP growth was 19.5 per cent in 2021-22 against the base case projection of 13.5 per cent by the Finance Commission.
- This enabled them to expand the fiscal deficit by 6.4 percentage points in 2020 after the pandemic struck. Such is the power of counter-cyclical fiscal consolidation.
- Dollar strength can remain the bugbear for EM (emerging market) currencies till the middle of next calendar year and we must bulwark against such outcomes
- It is best to stay focused on maintaining macro-financial stability and not overly worry about growth at this stage. Such is the nature of policy trade-offs.

***Discuss the various strategies that are required to boost the nascent Indian Deep tech ecosystem.***

**KEY POINTS**

- In order to become a developed country in 25 years, India will need to build world-class deep tech capabilities in certain sectors.
- Certain innovations in the existing corporate social responsibility (CSR) budgets and high net worth (HNI) tax breaks will incentivise capital flowing into strategic tech.
- Globally, venture capital is cautious when it comes to Deep Tech. The Indian venture capital ecosystem is not even willing to discuss it.
- Deep Technology is almost always dual use. For example, position navigation timing technology such as GPS is needed for Google Maps and Uber but is also an extremely important aspect for fighter jet navigation and missile systems.
- Large corporations can be incentivised to use some of this budget to serve the strategic needs of the nation. The Government should allow these funds to flow into certain strategic tech startups.
- While the Prime Minister's vision for an Atmanirbhar Bharat has created the right momentum, it will take close to a decade or more to fructify.
- If correctly aligned with the programmes launched by the Government, CSR funds and the right tax incentives it can create an almost self-fulfilling prophecy in the nascent Indian Deep Tech ecosystem.

***Central Bank Digital Currency can be a great challenge when it comes to serving the purpose of financial inclusion. Discuss***

**KEY POINTS**

- The RBI's concept paper on CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency) sets in motion the process for its introduction.
- The essential features of 'money' are that it should serve the requirements of being a medium of exchange, store of value and unit of measurement.
- The major challenge here is to make it accessible to those who have limited access to electricity or internet, or are not comfortable with technology, especially smartphones.
- The second issue relates to whether this should relate to only wholesale or retail transactions.
- The third issue relates to the issuance mode. The paper debates the issuance and maintenance by the central bank or the commercial banks, as both options exist.
- The fourth aspect of the CBDC relates to the form of issuance. Here the paper talks of it being token based like a currency note or account-based which is akin to bank deposits.
- The design of the instrument is addressed. The option is to pay an interest rate on the CBDC which will be an incentive to the holder.
- As mentioned earlier, e-wallets may become less relevant as CBDC catches on and currency is replaced, ATMs and rental spaces and accompanying infrastructure would become less important.

***Discuss the importance of Inter-operable Regulatory Sandbox developed by the Financial Stability and Development Council.***

**KEY POINTS**

- The standard operating protocol for the inter-operable regulatory sandbox continues to rely on disparate sandbox frameworks of financial regulators.
- This is an important development for fintech innovation that often blurs sectoral demarcations of the Indian financial system.
- However, the SOP does not address important issues likely to arise in testing cross-sectoral fintech innovations.
- A regulatory sandbox (sandbox) allows live testing of innovative products/ services under regulatory supervision and with regulatory relaxations.
- For instance, a fintech application may be designed to help a farmer to buy crop insurance, provide advice on loan products, and manage cashflows from sales. This application may fall within the ambit of RBI and IRDAI.
- As per the SOP, the regulator under whose remit the product's 'dominant feature' falls will be the Principal Regulator (PR), and the regulator under whose remit other features fall will be the Associate Regulator (AR).
- Applicants in India will have to comply with the regulations of the PR as well as terms and conditions imposed by the AR, which may be substantially different, as discussed above. The lack of regulatory uniformity acts as a barrier to innovations.

- A unified framework is important for harmonised regulatory and policy responses to fintech innovations and leveraging IoRS's true potential.

***Rising Current Account Deficit is best bridged through higher exports, rather than Foreign Direct Investment flows. Explain***

**KEY POINTS**

- India's current account deficit (CAD) was just 1.2 per cent of GDP despite imports of both goods and services reaching record levels, of \$613 billion and \$147 billion, respectively.
- However, during first half of FY23, India's external sector was in less well off, with a 96 per cent year-on-year surge in merchandise trade deficit at \$148 billion
- It can be argued that the increase in imports that caused the widening of trade deficit was inevitable due to sharp rise in crude oil prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Though not an immediate source of concern, persistent slow growth of services exports could hasten India's rapidly deteriorating balance of goods and services trade.
- CAD is likely to worsen further as the deficit of trade in goods and services, its largest component, had increased from \$37 billion at the end of Q1 2022-23 to \$63 billion within the next two months.
- In 2021-22, while gross FDI inflows into India were \$84.8 billion, disinvestment, or repatriation of FDI was \$28.6 billion; in other words, net inflows were \$56.2 billion.
- The RBI informs us that during 2021-22, outflows on account of direct investment income, or dividends and other forms of income that foreign direct investors extract from the country, totalled \$37 billion.

**7. AGRICULTURE**

***Farmer producer organizations can play a major role in aggregating small farmers and value adding agricultural produce. Explain***

**KEY POINTS**

- Due to Green Revolution it resulted in excessive concentration of a few crops namely rice, wheat and sugarcane resulting in deterioration of soil health, over exploitation of ground water and skewed market linkages.
- Some of the FPOs based in Karnataka, Telangana and West Bengal are engaged in procuring agri-inputs and rendering services to their members at reasonable prices which ultimately reduce the cost of production.
- Typical challenges faced by farmers in this context are lack of awareness, inadequate agri-value chain infrastructure, and indebtedness of the farmers which force them to resort to distress sales without value addition.
- Majority of the FPOs work as simple intermediaries by aggregating agri-produce and engaging in primary processing activities: grading and sorting.

- As small and marginal farmers are the majority (86.08 per cent as per Agricultural Census 2015-16) in India, they should be encouraged to be members of FPOs to reduce costs, enhance incomes and ensure food, nutritional, and financial security.
- Besides, the FPOs need to explore export markets in order to double farmers' income.
- Apart from having access to formal finance, the FPOs must be allowed to list on Social Stock Exchange to mobilise risk capital.
- In sum, aggregating farmers can improve their collective bargaining power in input, credit and output markets and leads to better price discovery.

***Farm mechanization holds the key for sustainable and efficient development of Indian agriculture and rural economy. Analyse***

**KEY POINTS**

- India's agri sector has been on account of several positive factors related to the rural economy, including progressive policies towards agriculture, also leading to growth of the domestic tractor industry.
- Farm mechanisation in India may have made strong strides in recent years, with India as the largest tractor market in the world.
- It has had a significantly positive impact on the use of machinery on farmlands in India including output value, income and return rate of all types of crops.
- Creating self-reliance in farm machinery manufacturing is a critical step towards ensuring mechanisation of India's farmlands and India needs a range of farm products and implements to increase productivity on its farmlands.
- The use of modern machinery is currently being promoted both by the private and public sectors, with several initiatives being taken by the government.
- They are Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM) under National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology, Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).
- These schemes provide equal amount of subsidy to all products and thus do not incentivise businesses who have invested in India, to design and develop these products.
- In conclusion, the Indian tractor industry has been at the forefront of efforts to achieve self-reliance in mechanisation.

***How the country can be atmanirbhar in food even in the face of adverse climate change? Explain***

**KEY POINTS**

- It is actually the foundation day of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations that was set up in 1945.
- The global population at that time was a little less than 2.5 billion and increasing at an annual rate of about 1.9%per annum.

- Access to food at affordable prices still remains a challenge for a substantial segment of humanity, which leads to malnutrition.
- Interestingly, while agriculture gets severely impacted by climate change, it also is the cause behind 28% of the global green house gas (GHG) emissions, contributing to global warming.
- But changing the behaviour of people can not be achieved with a business as usual approach, even when you develop new technologies.
- One has to work on policies that incentivise people to change the way of doing things, be it agriculture or non-agriculture operations.
- Currently, it hovers around 0.6% of agri-GDP for both the Centre and the states combined; this needs to be a minimum of 1%, but desirably anywhere between 1.5-2%, of agri-GDP.
- This World Food Day, let us commit to give our best to this planet as well as people's basic need of food. At ICRIER, we are bringing out our October issue Af-TAB on Synergising food and nutritional security with environment.

***The concept of a lifestyle for the environment (LiFE) movement is in line with the global climate justice movement. Justify***

**KEY POINTS**

- United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report has warned that global human development measures have declined across most countries in the past two years.
- The Paris Agreement and the COP26 summit in Glasgow represent urgent, collective steps countries are taking to limit emissions.
- LIFE, or Lifestyle for Environment, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP26 in November 2021, brings a fresh and much-needed perspective.
- LIFE recognises that small individual actions can tip the balance in the planet's favour. But we need guiding frameworks, information sharing and the scale of a global movement.
- And while LIFE is a global vision, India is an excellent place to start. With over 1.3 billion people, if we achieve a true jan andolan here, the momentum generated will be enormous. As India leads, we see the world increasingly follow.
- LIFE resonates with the global climate justice India has rightfully called for highlighting enhanced obligations those in developed countries bear, to support climate adaptation and mitigation for those most affected, yet least responsible.
- With COP27 next month, and India set to assume the G20 Presidency weeks after, followed by the halfway mark to Agenda 2030 next year.

## ***A project to use paddy straw to produce compressed bio gas can transform the rural economy of India. Discuss***

### **KEY POINTS**

- The Government of India has put in place several measures and spent a lot of money in tackling the stubble burning problem.
- In Punjab, Sangrur, Ludhiana and Barnala were recommended as the most promising districts for these interventions.
- The plant will use one lakh tonnes of paddy straw produced from approximately 16,000 hectares of paddy fields.
- Paddy residue will be collected from this year to produce 33 tons of CBG and 600-650 tonnes of fermented organic manure/slurry per day this will reduce up to 1.5 lakh tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year.
- There are several other benefits: the slurry or fermented organic manure from the plant (CBG) will be useful as compost to replenish soils heavily depleted of organic matter, and reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers.
- The plant will also provide employment opportunities to rural youth in the large value chain, from paddy harvest, collection, baling, transport and handling of biomass and in the CBG plant.
- This will boost the economy of Punjab. It is pertinent to mention that straw from many other crops contains higher energy than paddy straw.
- This appears to be a first win-win initiative in the form of environmental benefits, renewable energy, value addition to the economy, farmers' income and sustainability.

## ***Drones have the potential to be the technology-led transformation of Indian agriculture. Critically Analyse***

### **KEY POINTS**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted initiatives like Kisan Rail, DBT transfers, Soil Health Cards, e-NAM, and neem coating of urea, that have adopted, integrated and scale-up technology in agriculture.
- In India's \$600 billion agriculture sector, they are currently used for pesticide and nutrient application, mapping water spread area, sampling water, mapping macrophyte infestation etc.
- As per WEF, drone usage could reduce cost of application by 20 per cent and also mitigate health hazards of manual work, thereby promoting precision agriculture.
- Drones enable data collection and resource efficient nutrient application. This data facilitates crop production forecast, and evidence-based planning.
- With drones, government initiatives like Per Drop More Crop will improve and water use inefficiency in irrigation will decline.
- Second, drones' data integrated with GIS and Google Earth satellite images will eventually streamline schemes like PMFBY by aiding crop cutting experiments, crop-loss estimation, insurance determination and dispute resolution.

- The need is to scale up drone use in agriculture sector from the present 10,000 aerial vehicles.
- To address this, FPOs and custom hiring centres should be encouraged to buy and loan them to the farmers for a nominal fee. The Ministry provides subsidies in the range of 40-60 per cent for the cost of drones.

## 8. ENERGY

***Explain the various risks that need to be mitigated effectively for robust energy security in the country.***

### KEY POINTS

- Imported inflationary pressures through exposure to volatile oil and gas markets also pose risks to macroeconomic growth and stability, particularly for India, import-dependent for around 85% of its oil and half of its gas needs.
- Reserves are often concentrated in regions that are geopolitically sensitive or fare poorly from an ease of doing business perspective.
- Creating five-year road maps with clear targets for deployment and indigenous manufacturing across clean energy applications would provide visibility to domestic investors.
- If there is adequate visibility on sourcing opportunities in conducive geographies, the private sector should be encouraged to secure minerals for its own requirements.
- Support technologies that utilise domestically available materials. The deployment of technologies such as sodium-ion batteries could reduce requirements for sourcing minerals from beyond India's borders.
- While the current performance-linked incentive scheme on batteries is technologically agnostic.
- India could consider creating a tranche of capital to incentivise investments in technologies that rely on local raw materials. It could also propose co-development of such technologies with geostrategic partners.
- develop policies on urban mining aimed at recycling mineral inputs from deployments that have completed their useful life.
- These could help further reduce dependence on international sourcing. India must act immediately and decisively to mitigate these risks to its energy security.

## 9. S & T

***Explore the various areas related to Artificial Intelligence which has the power to completely transform the high-tech industry.***

### KEY POINTS

- Artificial Intelligence-driven disruptions are increasingly becoming pervasive and are expected to change every industry.
- AI is becoming better and more affordable: Per the 2022 AI-Index-Report by Stanford, since 2018, the cost and the time to train ML (machine learning) tasks have improved, encouraging widespread commercial adoption of AI.
- Robotic arms are becoming cheaper: An AI Index survey shows the median price of robotic arms has decreased by 46.2 per cent in the past five years, making them more affordable.
- Successful entrepreneurs in the hi-tech industry can seize the moment created by these trends. Some market leaders are efficiently addressing these challenges with the effective adoption of AI at scale.
- These market conditions are encouraging high-tech industry leaders to leverage AI to enable business model innovation.
- Automation in chip design and verification can reduce production costs and deliver operational efficiency by predicting failures in integrated circuit designs and proposing optimal layouts.
- With the advancement in AI and immersive-reality technologies, product design can be reimaged in high-tech manufacturing.
- AI has the power to completely transform the high-tech industry that faces a range of challenges and opportunities. At the same time, one needs to acknowledge that AI is young and there is room for improvement.

***Astro Tourism is growing rapidly in India. With respect to the Dark Sky Reserve in Ladakh discuss the prospects of Astro Tourism.***

### KEY POINTS

- This spot is today the Vainu Bappu Observatory and is run by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, and is among India's foremost observatories.
- Rainclouds absorb starlight and radiation from cosmic objects, preventing them from being caught on the telescopes of cameras.
- Situated at 14,000 ft above sea level and a little over 250 km southeast of Leh, Hanle is a village of about 320 houses and a population of about 1,500, according to Paljor Therchin, the sarpanch of Hanle.
- This is a special kind of light from gamma rays, or the most energetic sources of radiation, that can result from dying stars or several galactic events.
- The seven-telescope contingent, called HAGAR (High Altitude Gamma Ray), also looks at Cherenkov radiation, although at a lower range of energies.

- The metallic capsule, the highest of the observatories, is the Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT), the oldest and active since 2000.
- The desiccated air that helps the telescope catch ephemeral interstellar light translates to sub-zero winters for at least six months of the year.
- At Hanle, the thinner air and the elevation means starlight is relatively unimpeded until it descends into the lower, more polluted stretches below.
- Hanle, as it currently stands, is largely shrouded in darkness. Disconnected from the electric grid, solar panels and a diesel generator are the only sources of electricity.

***NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test gives hope that the technological advancement can prevent extraterrestrial threats. Explain***

**KEY POINTS**

- For the very first time, NASA scientists have succeeded in slightly altering the trajectory of an asteroid by using a spacecraft to slam into it.
- DART (Double Asteroid Redirection Test) was aimed at a 160-metre-wide asteroid Dimorphos, which was orbiting a larger asteroid Didymos, both of which were circling the sun, 11.2 million kilometres from the earth.
- Since neither body would have come closer than about 6.4 million km of the earth in their lifetime, they did not pose any threat.
- However, DART was a test mission to see if this technique, known as kinetic impactor, would give the necessary 'nudge' to an asteroid and alter its course by a desired amount.
- The reason for this test is to learn how to use the kinetic impactor technique to 'nudge' earth-bound asteroids out of the way, years before impact.
- The other question is whether this technique can be used to deflect asteroids bearing rich bounties of minerals and moving them to closer locations from where these can be harvested.
- It is to be hoped that this demonstration of the power of engineering and science can be extrapolated to 'kick-start' a move to avoid the drastic impact of such disasters too.

***India needs a holistic approach to tackle newest threat in the cyber space sector from quantum techniques. Explain***

**KEY POINTS**

- The Army has collaborated with industry and academia to build secure communications and cryptography applications.
- This step builds on last year's initiative to establish a quantum computing laboratory at the military engineering institute in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh.
- India is getting there slowly but steadily. In February 2022, a joint team of the Defence Research and Development Organisation and IIT-Delhi successfully demonstrated a QKD link between two cities in UP — Prayagraj and Vindhyachal — located 100 kilometres apart.

- The Union Budget 2020-21 had proposed to spend Rs 8,000 crore on the newly launched National Mission on Quantum Technologies and Applications.
- Currently, India has very few capabilities in developing advanced systems capable of withstanding quantum cyberattacks.
- India must consider procuring the United States National Security Agency's (NSA) Suite B Cryptography Quantum-Resistant Suite as its official encryption mechanism.
- The NSA is developing new algorithms for their cypher suite that are resistant to quantum cyberattacks. This can then facilitate India's official transition to quantum-resistant algorithms.
- Eventually, this can help establish a nationwide communication network integrated with quantum cryptographic systems, thereby protecting cyberspace from any cross-border quantum cyber offensive.
- Finally, diplomatic partnerships with other countries with top technology sectors, advanced economies can help India pool resources and mitigate emerging quantum cyber threats.

***India needs a comprehensive strategy to fight the production, the spread and the sharing of online inappropriate content. Discuss***

**KEY POINTS**

- In India, though viewing adult pornography in private is not an offence; seeking, browsing, downloading or exchanging child pornography is an offence punishable under the IT Act.
- India's enforcement agencies are largely dependent on foreign agencies for the requisite information.
- In 2021, the number of exchanged content URLs stood at 9,28,278, of which 4,43,705 contained illegal content.
- 'Aarambh India', a Mumbai-based non-governmental organisation, partnered with the IWF, and launched India's first online reporting portal in September 2016 to report images and videos of child abuse.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) launched a national cybercrime reporting portal in September 2018 for filing online complaints pertaining to child pornography and rape-gang rape.
- The ad hoc Committee of the Rajya Sabha, headed by Jairam Ramesh, in its report of January 2020, made wide-ranging recommendations on 'the alarming issue of pornography on social media and its effect on children and society as whole'.
- It is time India joins INHOPE and establishes its hotline to utilise Interpol's secure IT infrastructure or collaborate with ISPs and financial companies by establishing an independent facility such as the IWF or NCMEC.
- The Jairam Ramesh committee's recommendations must be followed up in earnest and the Prajwala case brought to a logical end.

## 10. ENVIRONMENT

***There is a need for Conference of Parties 27 on the basis of sustainable forest. Do you agree with this view? Comment***

### KEY POINTS

- There was an observation that every technological solution discussed at COP26 depends on just three resources: nelectricity (non-emitting electricity generated by hydropower, renewables or nuclear fission), carbon capture and storage (CCS) or biomass.
- The total demand for those resources required by the plans discussed at COP26 cannot be met by 2050.
- While there was the deforestation-ending climate commitment at COP26, the nature of the pledge was vague.
- Forests absorb a net 7.6 billion metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year. The conservation of forests, along with other nature-based solutions, can provide up to 37% of the emissions reductions needed to tackle climate change.
- The Dasgupta Review-Independent Review on the Economics of Biodiversity reports that green infrastructure (salt marshes and mangroves) are 2-5 times cheaper than grey infrastructure (breakwaters).
- The IPCC Land Report estimates that land serves as a large CO<sub>2</sub> sink. There is a growing body of evidence that a large proportion of the required removals could be achieved by conserving natural sinks, improving biodiversity protection, and restoring ecosystems.
- We need to realise that the climate crisis is just a symptom; our real problem is that human consumption and activity have exceeded the regenerative capacity of our planet.

***From a nutritional security perspective, the minimum support price needs to support nutrient-rich crops. Explain***

### KEY POINTS

- The CACP recommendations on Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for the mandated six Rabi crops wheat, barley, gram, lentil, rapeseed and mustard, and safflower are arrived by considering several factors.
- Though on the surface the list looks comprehensive, there are two missing concerns given the present day challenges, necessitating a change in the MSP formula.
- Rising MSPs of water-intensive crops has resulted in some of the water conflicts over river basins as shown by recent studies in the Cauvery and the Teesta river basins.
- This is also because MSP for rice and wheat, where government agencies like Food Corporation of India play a role in procurement, has created a reference for market prices.
- Ragi is the best performer in the case of calcium production. Wheat and ragi do equally well with phosphorus production per unit of water at the margin.
- Irrespective of the season, the nutritional aspect needs to be figured into the MSP recommendations, and more nutritional crops should command higher support prices.
- In this case, though we find a clear bias towards wheat, it is amply clear that the MSP must also needs to support ragi, when viewed from a nutritional security perspective.

***Nano particles-induced air pollution is more harmful than PM<sub>10</sub>/PM<sub>2.5</sub>-induced air pollution. Explain.***

**KEY POINTS**

- The rising impact of air pollution leads to increased government health expenditure in two ways: first, the form of reimbursement of costs incurred by people with insurance cover under Ayushman Bharat.
- The discourse on air pollution in India centres on mean concentration of particulate matter PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>.
- There are pollutants which are more harmful than PM<sub>10</sub>/PM<sub>2.5</sub>.
- These are nanoparticles, arising from both natural and man-made processes: soil erosion, dust storms, burning of unprocessed fuel, industrial, and mechanical processes.
- The chemically reactive nature of nanoparticles makes the risk assessment highly uncertain.
- Infant mortality, neonatal complications, and birth defects are also likely to increase with ever increasing concentrations of matters smaller than 10 µm.
- Incidentally, while the pollution mask provides protection against PM<sub>10</sub>/PM<sub>2.5</sub> particulate matter, the same is not true for pollution from nanoparticles.
- Moreover, with no mechanism available to record the extent of air pollution arising from nanoparticles, the risk arising from same is now a black box.
- Thus, there is a need for the government to raise awareness on the dangers of nanoparticles. Monitoring stations should make an effort to measure the same; without quantifiable statistics, we cannot highlight the dangers involved.

**G. S PAPER - IV**

**11. ETHICS**

***Mahatma Gandhiji considered peace as an ethical issue rather than the political one. Do you agree with this view? Comment***

**KEY POINTS**

- Gandhi considered the problem of peace as an ethical. For him, the importance was to be on the side of the just.
- Many famous critics of Gandhi's nonviolence have pointed their fingers at the impotence of Gandhian nonviolence against totalitarian regimes.
- While Hitler believed in eliminating morality from politics, for Gandhi, it was most important that the moral legitimacy of non-violence be a strategy of peacemaking.
- Gandhi remains an original thinker in the matter of peace building and also an astute peace builder.

- From Gandhi's perspective, nonviolence is an ontological truth that follows from the unity and interdependence of humanity and life.
- While violence damages and undermines all forms of life, nonviolence uplifts all.
- Gandhi, therefore, advocated an awareness of the essential unity of humanity, and that awareness required a critical self-examination and a move from egocentricity towards a 'shared humanity'.
- This 'shared humanity' cannot exist today if it is not aware of its own shortcomings.
- It needs to strive to remove its own imperfections, in order to be able to foster a pluralistic peace.
- Needless to say, in an age of increasing 'globalisation of selfishness', there is an urgent need to read and practise the Gandhian social and political philosophy in order re-evaluate the concept of peace.

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