**INSIGHTS SECURE-2016 SYNOPSIS COMPILATION- GS PAPER-1**

*Topic: Changes in critical geographical features (including waterbodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.*

[**1) Rejuvenation of lakes and tanks is an important step in recharging groundwater and fighting drought, especially in India. What measures are adopted to rejuvenate them? How will these measures benefit farmers? Examine. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/02/1-rejuvenation-lakes-tanks-important-step-recharging-groundwater-fighting-drought-especially-india-measures-adopted-rejuvenate-will-measures-benef/)

[The Hindu](http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/farmers-reap-a-bountiful-supply-of-tankbed-soil/article8545794.ece)

**What is rejuvenation?**

It is the lowering down of the base level. In lakes and tanks it is usually done by cleaning in case of waste dumping and de-siltation in case of sedimentation in dams, so as to restore its original capacity of holding water.

**Measures adopted to rejuvenate lakes and tanks in India:**

1. **National lake conservation plan**: The objective of the scheme is to restore and conserve the urban and semi-urban lakes and other unique freshwater eco systems of the country that are degraded due to waste water discharge, through an integrated ecosystem approach.

* In Bidar, the **district administration and the zila panchayat** are working to clean and dredge around 650 waterbodies, including tanks and lakes, wells and temple kalyanis. Around 4 lakh cubic metres of soil have been removed from the tank-beds
* Introduction of **biological predator** (insects, fungi, herbivorous fish) to remove the floating vegetation.

1. **Shahdara lake rejuvenation project:**

* Sewage Water will be treated by the **“Phytorid Technology”** based on constructed wetland and will be used for Rejuvenating the lake in the Shahadara locality of East Delhi.
* **Telibanda lake, Raipur kot lake Brahmapuri Maharashtra** have also used this NEERI’s phytroid tech for rejuvenation

1. **Puttenahalli Neighbourhood Lake Improvement Trust** (PNLIT) in Bengaluru outclassed more than 200 entries to bag the prestigious ‘**Sehar Green Karo’ award** for its lake rejuvenation initiative. The restoration work converted a marshy dumpyard back into lake.
2. **Using wetland and spillway** which will help mitigate sediment and nutrient flow in the lake from surrounding water sources.
3. **Mission kakatiya** is a program of restoring all the tanks and lakes in Telangana State, India.
4. **Implementation of solid waste management rules 2016** also might help in lake rejuvenation
5. Fixing the boundary of lakes and removal of encroachment.
6. **Diversion of sewerage water entering the lakes**.
7. **New bund formation**, strengthening of existing bund, waste weir improvement and de-silting to increase water storage
8. Finally, while lake rejuvenation also involves fixing lake boundaries, **fencing, de-weeding, de-silting, beautification**, etc., all these are being addressed
9. NGOs, including Reliance Foundation, and the **corporate social responsibility** arm of the construction company, Larsen and Toubro, are also excavating and cleaning some water bodies in some villages in Karnataka.

**How will these measures benefit farmers?**

* In Bidar, farmers are getting a bountiful **supply of tank-bed soil to be used as top soil**, as the government has taken up tank cleaning and dredging work. The top soil is good for agriculture as it is **rich in organic matter and humus**, besides cleaning of tank also increases their water holding capacity.
* Covering Red soil fields with top soil will help farmers considerably. It will also help **improve the water holding capacity of the waterbodies.**
* In the regions like Punjab where groundwater has been exploited rejuvenation of tanks works as a**rain harvesting method where water is stored and provides water security.**
* Lakes that were unable to sustain any marine life due to silt, or shallow water levels were developed to support large scale fish farming, as seen in Bidar.

These measures will provide water security and also have economic incentives in places where silt can be used for farming.

*Topic: Changes in critical geographical features (including waterbodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.*

[**1) Why the Himalayan region is experiencing annual forest fire scourge? What measures are needed to prevent these fires? Discuss. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/03/1-himalayan-region-experiencing-annual-forest-fire-scourge-measures-needed-prevent-fires-discuss/)

[The Hindu](http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/tinderbox-in-in-the-himalayas/article8548784.ece)

[DailyO](http://www.dailyo.in/politics/forest-fires-uttarakhand-timber-mafia-wildlife-environment-unep-himalayas-natural-resources/story/1/10360.html)

**Reasons:-**

**Natural Reasons:**

* Almost 50-55 per cent of the total forest cover in India is prone to fires annually, normally between February and mid-June. This is the time when soil moisture is at its lowest. More than any other part of India, it is the Himalayan belt that is prone to such fires, especially when there is **less rain in the pre-monsoon period..**
* The **coniferous forest in the Himalayan region** comprising of fir (Albies spp), spruce (Picea smithiana), Cedrus deodra, Pinus roxburgii and P. Wallichiana etc. is very prone to fire.
* The most vulnerable stretches of the world to forest fire are the youngest mountain ranges of Himalayas.**With large scale expansion of chir forests** in Himalayan mountains, the frequency and intensity of forest fires have increased alarmingly.
* The recent forest fire in Uttarakhand is because of **high temperatures with no atmospheric moisture and lack of rainfall**
* Western Himalayan region, with its **mix of colourful forests**, including moist deciduous, tropical dry deciduous, temperate and sub-Alpine types, turns into a tinderbox during severe dry seasons.
* It is possible that the **changing patterns of climate** may be exacerbating the problem.

**Man-made reasons:**

* Setting the vegetation on fire in some forests helps produce richer grazing lands by bringing about better botanical diversity on the ground, and a large number of incidents are caused by those in search of fodder.
* **Human greed for more land.**

**Fact:**

The India State of Forest Report 2015 mentions that it is the tropical thorn forest, tropical dry evergreen forest and subtropical pine forests that are most prone to heavy, moderate and occasional forest fires.

**What needs to be done?**

* The effective intervention **of community-led ‘ *van*panchayats’** (forest councils) in preventing fires.
* Progress can be made also by providing **environmental education** to local residents and officials.
* Significantly, the use of **biomass alternatives**, including cooking gas, has had a beneficial impact on fire risk, and this must be expanded.
* Equally, the clearing of ecologically important natural oak forests can be reduced by tapping the plantation sector, which could give preference to growing useful fodder and timber trees.
* Saving what remains of old forests and **stopping further spread of pine trees** planted over several decades for narrow economic reasons, are crucial for the health of the Western Himalayas.
* **Technology:**
  + In addition to the ongoing schemes for forest fire management, the Government is also considering for setting up of a **National Institute of Forest Fire Management with satellite centres in different parts of India with an objective to bring the latest forest fire fighting technologies to India** through proper research, training of personnel
  + **Effective fire fighting tools and machinery-** Provision of modern and effective tools and machinery e.g. Fire Beater, Forest Fire Showel, Pulaskis Tool, Fire Rake, McLeod Tools, Brush Tools, Power Blowers, Back-Pack Pump Sets, Fire Tenders etc
* **International coordination:**
* The FAO **has run a special TCP project program in the country under which main emphasis was given to human resource development in forest fire management.**
* **Organising seminars, training programs**, conferences, and study tours in different countries leading in Forest Fire Management, e.g., U.S.A., Australia, U.K., Spain, France, etc.
* **Government efforts implementation should improve:**
  + Indian forest authorities have been **using satellite images to detect active forest fires.**
  + Incidences of such forest fires are uploaded daily to the INFFRAS– the Indian Forest Fire Response and Assessment System website during the February to June season.
  + daily listing of forest fire information and also provides a **forest fire map**. Then there are **pre- and post-fire warnings** to look at and also forest sensitive zone maps.
  + All this information need to be available right up to the district and tehsil levels.
  + There is also **forest fire vulnerability mapping** done by the Union ministry of environment, forests and climate change, which is shared with the state governments for controlling forest fires and reducing damage arising out of it.

*Topic: Changes in critical geographical features (including waterbodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.*

[**1) “Forest fires highlight a larger cycle of threats in the western Himalaya. Increasing the area under broadleaf forests throughout is the only way forward.” What do you understand by broadleaf forests? Why are they absent in the region? How will their growth address forest fires? Discuss. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/04/1-forest-fires-highlight-larger-cycle-threats-western-himalaya-increasing-area-broadleaf-forests-throughout-way-forward-understand-broadleaf-fores/)

[The Hindu](http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/growing-back-our-broadleaf-forests/article8553023.ece)

**Broadleaf forests:**

* Temperate deciduous forests also called **“broadleaf forests,**” because the tree species that populate them have broad leaves. Trees like Maple, Oak, Beech, Chestnut, Elm, Hickory, ect. have big, broad leaves that are attached to the branch by a special stem called a **petiole**. Unlike pine needles, these leaves are soft and easily digestible to browsing herbivores.
* These tall trees form a canopy which blocks most of the sunlight from penetrating through to the plants below. To compensate, the plants that make up the understory and herbaceous layer are **shade-tolerant**, meaning they can survive with a lower amount of sunlight.
* Due to the seasonal nature of temperate deciduous forests, many of the plants in this region are **perennial**,
* The term **deciduous**refers to the plant’s ability to lose it’s leaves when times get tough.
* They are present in both Eastern and western Himalaya but in recent years western Himalayan broadleaf forests are depleting at a faster rate though.

**Why are they absent in the region?**

* Broadleaf trees tend to dry up in the wake of regular forest fires. These are rapidly replaced by the fire-resistant chir pine, which has very little to offer in the way of food for wildlife.
* There is **little or no regeneration in broadleaf forests.** The extensive area under chir pine led to problems of a different sort – the shedding of pine needles and cones at the beginning of the hot season ensures plenty of fuel for wildfires, as the resin rich humus covers the ground. When this catches fire, broadleaf forest dies out, **enabling the chir pine to spread further**
* Clearing the forests for logging and making space for agricultural land
* Today, forests are being set on fire to kill trees
  + so that timber contractors can stay in business,commercial builders can clear land of trees to negate the difficulty of obtaining felling permission
  + villagers can stock up dead fuelwood for cooking and warming themselves, and various other reasons.
  + The main trigger for this phenomenon was a 1981 governmental ban on the felling of green trees over 1,000 metres above sea-level.

**How can their growth address forest fires?**

* Enabling broadleaf forest to re-establish itself, will stabilise underground water resources.
  + The effect will be the rejuvenation of previously perennial upland springs that have become seasonal
  + a reduction in flood fury during the monsoon
* “dreadlock” forests to grow back without interference would help subsurface water to recharge in the watersheds and headwaters, reducing floods, stabilising perennial flow in the rivers and giving our nation much needed water security.

*Topic: Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.*

[**2) Museums play an important role in preserving art, culture and natural history of a nation. It is said that museums in India are facing plethora of problems. Analyse these problems and suggest solutions. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/04/2-museums-play-important-role-preserving-art-culture-natural-history-nation-said-museums-india-facing-plethora-problems-analyse-problems-suggest-solut/)

[The Indian Express](http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/national-museum-of-natural-history-fire-indian-museum-2783095/)

**Museums condition is deplorable because of many factors like:-**

* **No proper database:**
  + An integrated database of existing and stolen artefacts, hardly exist.
  + Providing sufficient information regarding theft cases has been a struggle.
* **CAG Audit:**
  + The Comptroller and Auditor General of India’s Performance Audit of Preservation and Conservation of Monuments and Antiquities in 2013 had scathing remarks about **the country’s poor acquisition, documentation and conservation systems.**
  + The audit also raised serious concerns about the “discrepancies in the number of antiquities reportedly available in museums” including the National Museum in Delhi.
* **Not enough manpower:**
  + Museums and the ASI **remain gravely short-staffed** with an inadequate number of licensing and registering officers.

**No proper Maintenance:**

* Most of our public museums would perform miserably in a fire audit. Like fire, water leakages and flooding can wreak enormous and immediate damage, to museum collections and the public.
* Inappropriate sewage and drainage systems, unhygienic and offensive garbage disposal arrangements, including heaps of junk and malba that are left to lie around for months and years, mosquito-infested environments, all pose health and safety hazards in government museums.
* wrong storage, handling and display, the dust, the humidity, the incomplete accessioning of invaluable objects, theft, also plague our public museums
* Regular fire and safety drills are rare. Even in the best of our public museums, toilets are filthy, galleries damp and dusty, and very often much worse.

**No proper design and structure:**

* The particular case of the natural history museum, it was housed in a building not designed for it.
* But even in public museums where buildings have been purpose-built, almost inevitably over time additions and changes are made in completely arbitrary ways, without any reference to original design and function.
* Circulation, ventilation, light and safety are the usual casualties, as planned features — exit points, staircases, landings, windows, open-to-sky areas — are encroached upon or closed off for space, sometimes “security”, reasons.
* “Temporary” construction of this type is often with cheap and harmful materials like asbestos, adding further to the risk..
* Do not follow National Building Code, prepared under the guidance of the Bureau of Indian Standards which lays down the ground rules for correct building practice and maintenance, including detailed guidelines for fire safety.

The problem lies not in the mandatory regime but in the callous ways that rules are bent and flouted in practice at the museum level.

**Solutions:**

* Initiate a **review of fire safety** at the 34 museums
* **One ministry:**
  + **To bring all public museums under the charge of one ministry**, like the ministry of culture, could help if there was domain expertise and scope to standardise and streamline rules and procedures, including safety protocols.
  + The concerned ministry could become an advisory and watchdog body for the adoption and upgrade of museum best practice across all public museums.
* **Autonomy:**
  + A museum cannot be run efficiently as a subordinate office of a ministry.
  + For a museum to achieve standards of excellence, it has to be run with a vision, a long-term plan, and the freedom to hire the best professionals.
  + Audit and accountability are critical, alongside a work ethic that valorises output and makes inaction culpable.
  + The existing, mangled and stifling management architecture has to be dismantled. This is long overdue. The government must seize the moment and place trust and faith in museums by devolving power
* **PPP:-**
  + Government museums are able now to explore public-private partnerships which often work extremely well to raise the quality of output, transparency and accountability, and contribute significantly to the income that a museum is able to generate on its own
* Experts recommend **building larger cadres of art historians**, conservators and archaeologists to man important sites and museums to safeguard and maintain heritage.

*Topic:Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.*

[**1) Does ethno-linguistic diversity – which India is famous for – negatively affect economic progress? Analyse. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/05/1-ethno-linguistic-diversity-india-famous-negatively-affect-economic-progress-analyse/)

[Livemint](http://mintonsunday.livemint.com/news/does-diversity-hamper-economic-progress/1.0.2255257704.html)

**Yes,It hampers economic progress:**

* Heterogeneous and complex societies see the rise of sectional interests that aim to grab public resources to their advantage.Research by economists showed that the **provision of public goods tends to be lower in areas with high ethno-linguistic diversity or polarization** because it is difficult for people to agree on the provision of public goods that benefit everyone.
* **Historical or cultural conflicts may often prevent different sub-groups in a region or country from collectively demanding state services** that cater to all rather than to special interests.
  + **For instance**Social heterogeneity negatively affects the provision of government services in US cities. Using a measure of heterogeneity, known **as ethno-linguistic fractionalization index,** they found that districts that are more heterogeneous spend less on education and infrastructure.
* Economists argued that the poor economic performance of most of the African countries is **due partly to the large number of different ethnic groups** living in the same country and partly to the absurd borders drawn by former colonial powers.
* concluded that **ethnic fractionalization is indeed accompanied by low school attainment, financial depth, and infrastructure quality**. Furthermore, they showed that ethnic fractionalization **leads to higher market distortions, captured by the black market premium.**
* There is **bad public sector performance** which leads to reduced economic performance
* Ethnically fractionalized societies may suffer from **rent-seeking behavior** by different ethnic groups that have difficulties agreeing on public goods such as infrastructure, education, and good government policy. These imply a non-productive use of inputs and **may reduce investments in productive sectors and thus inhibit economic growth**.
* **Education:**
  + public goods like**education may bring less satisfaction to everyone in a society when**the country is highly ethnically fractionalized because of disagreements between ethnic groups on issues like the language of instruction, the learning content, location, etc. This may **lead the society to invest less in human capital.**
  + Schools in particular are treated with suspicion because the minorities believe that the public schools will not educate their children as they do children from the ruling ethnic group.
* Moreover, ethnically fractionalized societies may produce situations of **uncoordinated government ministries,** each pursuing its own rent-seeking strategy without taking into account the effect of its actions on others. For example, an overvalued official exchange rate and strict exchange rate controls benefit those in power who resell foreign currency on the black market

**No:**

* Economists have compiled rich data on government expenditure on education and health for districts in Zambia. They find that there is a **positive association between ethnic diversity and public expenditure**, underscoring the point that even though diversity negatively affects public goods provision at a national level, **the effect may not be same at the state or district level.**
* The **response of the polity** and of the state to social division determines collective action or the lack of it.
* Fragmentation may not necessarily lead to worse state performance **if political elites are able to forge a common identity that bridges over social fault line** Pointing to the contrasting examples of Kerala and Uttar Pradesh, both of which have very heterogeneous populations, **Kerala managed to have better outcomes as its elites united under the banner of sub-nationalism from the 19th century onwards to demand public goods and greater spending on social welfare.**
* The sensitivity results show that the effects of ethnicity on economic growth may be **conditional on the level of ethnicity and the development status of the countries.** Fu
* Diversity spurs economic development and **homogeneity slows it down.**
  + **Industrial revolution Europe –**
    - distinctive cultural norms and values which favor individual effort, freedom and the spirit of enterprise.
    - what really propelled Europe and the New World’s economic ascendance was their relative openness to other cultures, which they measure in terms of greater or lesser geographical isolation.
  + **The lack of cultural diffusion** and its manifestation in cultural homogeneity and rigidity diminished the ability of the societies to adapt to a new technological paradigm, thereby delaying the onset of their industrialization and, thus, their take-off to a state of sustained economic growth.

*Topic: The Freedom Struggle – its various stages and important contributors /contributions from different parts of the country*

[**1) Why did Mahatma Gandhi make non-violence a non-negotiable requirement of the mass movement that won India its freedom? Examine. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/06/1-mahatma-gandhi-make-non-violence-non-negotiable-requirement-mass-movement-won-india-freedom-examine/)

[The Indian Express](http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/the-indian-is-no-longer-alone-2786455/)

* Gandhi objects to violence because it perpetuates hatred. When it appears to do ‘good’, the good is only temporary and cannot do any good in the long run.
* According to Gandhi the use of non violence consists of anger, selfishness, hatred and enmity. According to him violence cannot do anything good to human beings.
* **Gandhi’s concern was both based on theological as well as more pragmatic considerations**
  + India was in no position to get into an armed conflict with the British, having been robbed of all economic and moral strength.
  + Gandhi had the option of reinvigorating a nation that has lost all confidence in its power and inner strength. After these practical considerations,
  + **Gandhi found that the only alternative was to fall back upon what was integral to India’s cultural and historical psyche, the principle of non-violence.** **This non-violence was used in conjunction with the philosophy of non-attachment.**
* Gandhi declared the two goals of his life to be ensuring India’s freedom and to achieve it through non-violence. **One without the other would be unacceptable and weakening**. Violence, Gandhi believed, breded **violence, and can never be a solution to India’s problem**
* **Non-violence played a very important role in defining the course of Indian national movement, from the 1920s to the final achievement of the freedom**.
  + It formed the basis of the methods of Satyagraha that became closely associated with the Gandhian whirlwind in Indian politics. Gandhi understood economic profit to be the guiding force of the imperialist project and attacked the British government at where it hurt most, which was financial gain.
  + **Picketing, non-cooperation and organised resistance to British modes of oppression** were the main modes of the non-violent political movements in India. It shaped the course of the Civil Disobedience Movement as well.
  + Even at a later time, during the[Quit India Movement](http://www.mapsofindia.com/personalities/gandhi/quit-india-movement.html), Gandhi’s theory of non-violence held strong in the face of the new and radical waves in the world of Indian politics like communism and armed revolution.
  + Even at the dawn of independence, as Nehru was getting ready to eloquently unleash his ‘tryst with destiny’, Gandhi was busy on the troubled roads of Bengal, **preaching non-violence to mad rioters**
* behind the seeming docility of the “meek Indian” caricature and much-derided stupor a streak of latent violence that would rip Indians apart along the fissures of caste, creed and gender long before it became a threat to any empire

*Topic: Critical changes to geographical features*

[**1) Some farmers in India’s most drought prone regions have managed to fight drought, grow profitable crops and have managed to escape from debt trap. Discuss the techniques and methods adopted by these farmers to fight drought and how these can be applied in other parts of India that are reeling under drought. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/07/1-farmers-indias-drought-prone-regions-managed-fight-drought-grow-profitable-crops-managed-escape-debt-trap-discuss-techniques-methods-adopted-thes/)

[Down to Earth](http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/mr-prime-minister-good-news-53824)

**Successful stories which can be implemented any water scarce area in India:**

1. **In Maharashtra-Kadwanchi village in Jalna region:**

* The village has seen a sharp decline in drought vulnerability since 1996, when the **Kadwanchi watershed project** was launched.
* The farmers did was **conserve water and soil and dig farm ponds**.
* Add to it the **carefully thought out cropping pattern that suits the district** with annual average rainfall of 730 mm.
* **planted trees in a piece of forestland in the village** to showcase how effective these methods are in fighting drought.
* These steps slowed the flow of running water, increased seepage and recharged groundwater.
* organic farming: **no need for borewells** and no sugarcane cultivation
  + **inter-cropping and crop** **rotation** to keep farmland healthy. used cow dung to make manure for his farm and makes medicine for his crops using cow urine

2.Required **drip irrigation for which farmers constructed farm ponds**. These are small ponds dug by the farmers themselves by taking loans from banks. The ponds store rainwater and provide water throughout the year

3.Training by the **Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) of Jalana**, which also oversaw the implementation of the project. **Grape farming** phenomenally raised the income of the farmers

**4.Multi-cropping­**—the traditional way to ensure crop security.

1. No pesticides and fertilisers mixed with organic farming.

**6.Prepare their own fertiliser**

**7.Recharging underground aquifers**

**8**.**Revive livestock and fisheries** which provide an alternative source of income for the farmers.

* In 2003, Udaipur-based non-profit Sahyog Sansthan, decided to develop the common grazing land which led to assured two tonnes fodder every year.
* **Renovated old wells, constructed irrigation channels, introduced soil and water conservation measures and rain water harvesting to help the village residents**.

**9.groundwater management programme called Andhra Pradesh Farmer Managed Groundwater Systems taught farmers:**

* **to**make feasible and informed decisions about which crops to grow depending on water availability.
* learnt to measure rainfall and groundwater level, based on which they now advance sowing to October, usually done in December, to save costs on irrigation.

**10.Horticulture and tree plantation:**

* Government has its focus with a national mission for farmers regarding horticulture.

**11.With government support farmers started**

* focus on irrigation
* provide quality seeds and increase soil health
* avoid post-harvest losses by building warehouses and cold chains
* add value through food processing
* have a single national market; provide crop insurance coverage
* add ancillary activities like poultry to farming.

*Topic: Role of women; Art and culture; Salient features of Indian society*

[**2) The access to religious institutions and the opportunities to perform rituals were regulated by one’s caste and class position. Did women also face discrimination in performing religious rituals and in gaining entry into religious spaces? How did women confront this discrimination in ancient India? Examine. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/07/2-access-religious-institutions-opportunities-perform-rituals-regulated-ones-caste-class-position-women-also-face-discrimination-performing-religious-ri/)

[Frontline](http://www.frontline.in/cover-story/tradition-of-exclusion/article8523567.ece?homepage=true)

* Over the past three millennia in the subcontinent, they repeatedly demonstrate sectarian chauvinism, social exclusion and androcentric attitudes as well as patriarchal discrimination
* Historically there have been attempts to challenge the discriminations, attitudes and structures, and transform the traditions.
* Women’s spaces within religious traditions were neither a given, nor were they static; in early India, there were several contexts in which women sought spaces for themselves, had to face resistance, and, at times, succeeded in overcoming it.
* **Vedic literature** has many references to women in the context of religion and ritual, particularly the sacrifice, but there is not a single instance where the woman is seen as the primary performer. The*Taittiriya Brahmana* (circa10th to 7th century BCE) states that a sacrifice is no sacrifice if the wife is not present.
* The earliest evidence of women seeking entry into religious life on a par with men is also a story of women’s agency, which we very rarely find in historical sources.
* **Buddhism**, itself a religion evolving out of the questioning of existing beliefs and practices, provides us with the **first such instance, when women demanded to be a part of the monastic institution founded by Buddha**..They were rejected thrice by him. the determined women shaved their heads and adopted the saffron robes of the monks. They followed the Buddha.
* **Gender**also intervened as a social demarcator, and women were compared to those at the end of the social ladder, the*sudra* It is this **brahmanical tradition** that poses the greatest complexity in the attitudes revealed towards women’s participation in ritual, be it in its Vedic postulation or its sectarian Puranic articulation.
* ***bhakti*traditions** that we see women (and lower caste men) with agency, seeking to be a part of the community of *bhakta*s, **attempting to break social taboos and creating spaces for themselves in a male-dominated domain**.
  + Tamil saints Karaikal Ammaiyar and Andal present two different paths to salvation for the woman*bhakta*.
  + Other women saints in different times and different tongues expressed similar ideas that were**radical in content**
  + Undeterred by social norms, they staked their claims to enter male religious bastions and, in their own ways, some of them succeeded.
* There appears to be not much of a transformation of the normative structures of society.
* There are numerous sources that indicate that **some categories of women certainly had access to the temple**. Royal women are prominent as donors and some are even portrayed in sculpture and bronze casts.
* The **notions of ritual purity and pollution were invoked to camouflage the social exploitation and economic deprivation of the lower castes** and those outside the pale of caste society
* The extension of the idea of **pollution to women,** **whose menstruating bodies** were seen as impure.
* Across time, religious traditions have sought to codify rules, control entry and regulate participation within the institutional and ritual domain.Obviously, these are archaic practices, originating in very different contexts from the present, and **hence need to be discarded in keeping with the ethos of a liberal democracy as envisaged in the Indian Constitution**.
* In modern India, there have been movements seeking entry of untouchables into temples, the**famous Travancore Temple Entry of 1936** being one such successful movement.
* It is high time that a similar challenge that has been raised by some women’s groups Recently With regarding to Sabarimala temple or Shani Singnapur temple **and in keeping with constitutional provisions for equality of women**, their entry into religious places which currently keep them out becomes a reality.
* **The law gave an impetus for the women’s cause** by allowing them to enter the sanctum sanctorum in the Shani Singnapur case .

*Topic: Effect of globalisation; Role of women*

[**3) Analyse the impact of globalisation on lives of women in India and around the world. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/07/3-analyse-impact-globalisation-lives-women-india-around-world/)

[EPW](http://www.epw.in/system/files/pdf/2016_51/18/Globalisations%2C_Mobility_and_Agency_0.pdf)

**Positive impact:**

* Women’s lives around the world have been transformed by globalisation through the**flexibilisation of workers, occupational segregation**. The growing labour markets of the global economy are increasingly feminised
* Millions of educated women employed in “**creative economies” like the technology sector** in countries such as India and predominantly male professions signifies that they are at the frontline in the battle for gender equality, effect cultural transformation, and contribute to the diversifi cation of knowledge production.
* **Urban women’s** lives especially have been critically transformed by educational investments by their families and the state, and the expansion of employment opportunities in the private sector.
* Indian middle-class women is undergoing rapid transformation.
  + They are poised between an old India ravaged with bureaucratic redundancies and a “new” India with its high growth rate and a place in the global economy;
  + between an old middle class, which is steeped in upper caste membership and sanskritisation of the lower castes, and a “new” middle class, which has **heterogeneous caste origins** and is seen at the helm of a new India
  + between mothers who did not work outside the home and daughters who will grow up with career-oriented mothers.
* **economic liberalisation policies** set the stage for women’s increasing presence in the **public sphere**, it would be a mistake to claim that liberalisation alone brought about changes in gender norms. If anything, **economic liberalisation served as a catalyst to thrust women into the limelight in India**
* opened up broader communication lines and **attracted more companies** as well as different organizations into India which provided opportunities for not only working men, but also women
* With new jobs for women, there are opportunities for higher pay, which raises self–confidence and brings about independence.  This, in turn, can promote **equality between the sexes,** something that Indian women have been struggling with their entire lives.
* Globalization has the power to **uproot the traditional treatment towards women** to afford them an equal stance in society.

**Negative impact:**

* process of globalisation has contributed to **widening inequality within and among countries,**coupled with economic and social collapse in parts of Sub-Saharan Africa and countries in transition like in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union and financial crises in Asia and Latin America.
* **World Trade Organisation regulations** the states have brought about a change in national policies so as to allow the free entry of foreign corporations, to give more incentives to big businesses rather than to small firms, and to lift import controls on agricultural products. This has resulted in further **marginalisation of rural and indigenous women.**
* Globalisation has also**increased women’s unpaid work as social services are privatised.**
* Already the roles of international institutions like the Inter-national Monetary Fund, World Bank during the East Asian crisis were highly criticised.
* Women do two thirds of the world’s work, receive ten percent of world’s income and own one percent of the means of production. This is the **present picture of women workers in the era of globalization.**
* Although the humiliation, harassment and exploitation of women have been commonplace throughout history, such treatment has become more **widespread with globalization.**
* Out of the total 397 million workers in India, 123.9 million are women and of these women 96% of female workers are in the unorganized sector.Accordingly, although more women are now seeking paid employment, a vast majority of them **obtain only poorly paid, unskilled jobs in the informal sector, without any job security or social security**.
* **Health:**
  + Additionally working women in India are more likely to be subjected to intense exploitation; they are exposed to more and more risks that cause **health hazards** and are forced to endure greater levels of physical and mental stress.
  + It is not only in the unorganized sector or in small enterprises, but also in the modern sectors like the Information Technology and the automobile sectors where **working women are forced to work for 12 hours while the local governments ignore this open flouting of the labor laws**
  + The uncertainties of obtaining work and the dire need to retain a position in the midst of intense competition cause mental tension, strained social relationships, psychological problems and chronic fatigue, all of which are difficult to prove as work-related.
* The advent of assembly line jobs and the increased use of machinery has resulted in a **degradation of working conditions for women in India**.   For example, piece rated work, where assembly line workers are paid per piece produced, contributes significantly to the level of fatigue felt by the workers
* **Mechanisation:**
  + For example, several traditional industries where women work in large numbers like handloom and food processing have undergone changes in the forms of production with the introduction of machines, power looms etc, which have result in **the loss of employment for large number of women.**
* **Hazards related to the attitude of society and family:**
  + Though more and more women seek paid employment, **the stereotypical attitude towards women and their perceived role in the familial hierarchy has not undergone much change.**
  + Women continue to be perceived as weak, inferior, second-class citizens.
  + For working women, this discrimination is extended to the workplace also.
  + In addition, this perception that they alone are responsible for the domestic work, leads to a feeling of guilt when they are not able to look after the children or family members due to their official work, often resulting in emotional disorders.
* **Sexual harrassment in the workplace:**
  + One of the evils of the modern society is the sexual harassment female workers endure from their male counterparts and other members of the society.

* **Night work:**
  + In the era of globalization, the number of women working the night shift is increasing with call centers and export oriented companies located in the Export Processing Zone employing women in large numbers during the night shift, without providing proper protection or transport facilities to them.
* Trade liberalization policies have **led to the decline of small-scale and subsistence farming in developing and less developed countries** because western countries, sell heavily subsidized agricultural products to the developing or less developed countries.As a result, many female farmers who have been pushed of their land have sought  employment  in export processing zones, at lower wages than their male counterparts in their countries.
* Regarding **Structural Adjustment Policies (SAPs),** many poor countries have been forced to undertake as conditions of borrowing money from organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
  + In this regard, SAPs has had a negative effect on women mainly in developing countries, where the government’s borrowing money from SAPs have rescheduled their debt by reducing for example, publicly-funded health services, education and child care
  + have contributed to maternal mortality and the introduction of school fees has made education unavailable to the poorer children, especially girls in developing countries.

*Topic: Poverty and developmental issues*

[**1) New data released by IMF and other agencies in recent weeks shows that inequality in India is of Latin American rather than East Asian proportions. In the light of these data, discuss the nature of inequality in India. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/09/1-new-data-released-imf-agencies-recent-weeks-shows-inequality-india-latin-american-rather-east-asian-proportions-light-data-discuss-nature/)

[Livemint](http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/GdqzdRPteRzQFnTWAwgLYI/Inequality-in-India-is-far-worse-than-believed.html)

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has put out new data that shows how the two most successful Asian economies after 1990—China and India—have **seen inequality rise in tandem with economic growth**. This is in sharp contrast to what happened in countries such as South Korea or Taiwan in earlier decades

**Fact:**

 IMF estimates that the Gini coefficient for India has gone up from 45 in 1990 to 51 in 2013. China has done even worse. Its Gini coefficient has climbed from 33 to 53 in the same period.

**Nature of inequality in India:**

* There are several possible explanations for growing income inequality
  + from the nature of technological progress to the lack of opportunities due to the caste system
  + to ineffective government spending programmes and
  + lack of infrastructure that connects people in the interiors to markets.
  + Inequality in the ownership of assets
  + Laws of inheritance
  + Cost of professional training
  + Inflation
  + Unemployment
  + Tax evasion
  + Corruption and smuggling
  + Greater Burden of indirect taxation or regressive tax structure.
* There is a **need for greater job creation in the modern sectors of the economy.** This has been one of the few distinct failures amid the overall success of the economic reforms. The failure to create enough factory and office jobs has stymied the overdue shift of people from low productivity to high productivity work.
* There is **difference in productivity growth between the urban and rural areas.**
* There is the **income gap within the cities** between those who have been able to connect to the global economy and those who have not. One practical illustration of this is the millions of farmers who remain trapped in a stagnant agricultural sector.
  + **Countries of East Asia managed to evade this trap through labour-intensive industrialization** that moved millions of poor people from farms to modern factories
* Global inequality has actually decreased since millions of Indians and Chinese began joining the global middle class from 1990 onwards. **Lower global inequality is paradoxically a result of higher inequality in India and China.**
* India has 55 billionaires for the $1.1 trillion it generates.Given the size of India’s economy, the number of billionaires it produced was extraordinary compared with emerging market peers such as Brazil, or with developed market peers such as Germany.
  + Moreover, the fact that most billionaires gained wealth because of their access to natural resources such as land or government contracts raised disturbing **questions about the nature of India’s growth process.**
* **Even if the rich earn a lot more than the poor, they are unlikely to spend all of their additional income. Thus, consumption-based inequality measures are expected to understate income inequality.**

*Topic: Critical changes to geographical features*

[**2) Analyse the availability and usage of water in India. What policy measures are needed to effective management of water in India? Examine. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/09/2-analyse-availability-usage-water-india-policy-measures-needed-effective-management-water-india-examine/)

[The Indian Express](http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/marathwada-water-problem-drought-india-from-plate-to-plough-drop-by-careful-drop-2790806/)

**Situation in India:**

* India has almost 18 percent of global population but only 4 percent of fresh water resources.
* On per capita water availability basis, India falls in the category of “water stressed” nations, defined as those with less than 1700 cubic metre water per capita, per year.
* In 2011, its average water availability hovered around 1545 cubic metre, down from 1816 cubic metres in 2001.
* But at several places it is already less than even 1000 cubic metres, making them “water scarce.”
* In any case, the whole nation is expected to be “water scarce” by 2050
* Almost 78 percent of India’s water is being used for irrigation.
* Overall irrigation potential can go up from 139.9 m ha today to 170 m ha, if India taps the potential of **inter-linking of rivers.**
* The **widening gap between irrigation potential created (IPC) and potential utilised (IPU) is another problem**.While overall IPC so far is around 113 m ha, only about 91 m ha has been utilised**. This gives only 47 per cent irrigation cover to Gross cropped area.**
* In **groundwater, the problem is over-exploitation and falling water tables**.
  + More than 80 per cent of administrative units in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi are overexploited, and water table is depleting by one feet each year.
  + And one of the key factors behind this is the highly subsidised power supplied to rural areas.

**Measures needed:**

* Installing meters to measure power consumption, and also canal waters, and **then incentivising farmers to save their consumption by rewarding them with monetary value** of say 75 per cent of the savings at a price equivalent to what it would cost to supply from fresh investments.
* **To ration power and water supplies on per ha basis, and let farmers choose cropping patterns based on that allocation**. If any farmer wants more of these beyond their rationed quantity, they will have to pay full cost pricing.
* To replace **inefficient pump sets by more energy efficient ones at government cost**. Estimates suggest that almost 30 per cent power can be saved.
* But to save water, we need to promote **drip and sprinklers aggressively, especially for sugarcane and banana**, saving 40-50 per cent water. So far less than 5 percent of India’s cropped area is under micro-irrigation, and potential is at least three to four times more.
* Similarly, flooding of **rice fields needs to be replaced by SRI (System of Rice Intensification) technique**, which can save about 30 per cent water.
* **Stop protecting these water intensive crops**. Currently import duty on sugar is 40 per cent and on rice 70-80 percent.
  + In fact, India is a **net exporter of “virtual water”** as 1 kg of rice requires 3000 to 5000 litres of water and 1 kg of sugar about 2000 litres of water, and both are being exported
  + So India has to change its trade policy like china did in 2001 by importing water intensive crops like Soy etc..

*Topic:Changes in critical geographical features (including waterbodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes*

[**1) It is said that ignoring the ecology of the semi-arid Deccan plateau has led to the current environmental catastrophe in Marathwada and adjoining areas for humans and wildlife. Discuss. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/10/1-said-ignoring-ecology-semi-arid-deccan-plateau-led-current-environmental-catastrophe-marathwada-adjoining-areas-humans-wildlife-discuss/)

[Livemint](http://www.livemint.com/Politics/oCI1jymfymf3DNPCPIjrFI/Drought-in-a-wasteland.html)

**Ignoring the ecology of semi arid Deccan plateau has led to the environmental catastrophe in Marathwada as observed from the following data:**

* Marathwada geographically is a part of the Deccan Plateau, an area known for scarce rainfall in the rain shadow of the Western Ghats.But cultivation patterns are in total contrast of the ecological presence in this region.
* Dotting the vast stretch of dry savanna wilderness are **irrigated patches of flourishing sugarcane, grape and banana plantations.**
* **Government policies**
  + over the years have created a bizarre situation of irrigated cash crop farms and refugee fodder camps which are a paradox and a death trap for small farmers with meagre resources.
  + has promoted **water-intensive cash crops**— sugar is a well-known example—which has**dissuaded small farmers from cultivating self-sustenance crops such as wheat and soya bean**, which at times of distress could at least have fed their families.
* Also, the **imposition of beef ban in Maharashtra** has blocked the sale of cattle. Therefore, at the time of crisis there is neither food at home nor cash (from cattle sale) to buy from the market.
* **Proof of unscrupulous, unabated exploitation of ground water**, leading to drought year after year
* Unfortunately, these unique dry grassland ecosystems remain neglected, **labelled by the government as “wasteland”, or unproductive land**. In Maharashtra, over 15% of the land area of scrub, grassland and grazing land is categorized as “wasteland”.
  + These grasslands are **managed neither** by the forest department nor by the agriculture department nor the veterinary department who are concerned with livestock, but not the grass on which the livestock is dependent.
  + The grasslands are the ‘**common’ lands of the community and are the responsibility of none**.
  + the policy challenge lies in **how to make ‘wastelands’ economically productive zones. So either they are converted to agricultural lands through irrigation, or plantations**, or allotted to set up industries without considering the ecological ramifications.
* **Affecting the communities depending on these lands:**
  + The Dhangars’ survival depends on livestock rearing, pasture and water. With pasture and water in short supply they are now being forced to change their ways and take to cultivation of land or unskilled labour
  + These are the lands grazed by many endemic and endangered species as well.
* **Misguided afforestation** drives over the years to increase the green cover on barren drylands have done more harm than good to wildlife and livestock dependent on grasslands.

**What is needed to be done now?**

* A waste land policy is needed along with a **proper wasteland census** which was done way back in 1954.
* **Recommendations of National Grazing Policy**to ensure the sustainable use of grasslands and biodiversity conservation need to be implemented.
* **Drought resistant crops** need to be promoted
* India needs **to modify its food trade policy** importing more water intensive crops than exporting them.
* **Revise and update the drought code:**
  + governments need to respond by shutting off all non-essential water use from watering lawns to hosing down cars and much more as done in developed countries like US,Australia .
* **Secure water:**
  + This means insisting on water codes for everyday India i.e.., reduce water usage in all sectors – from agriculture, urban to industry.
* Groundwater restoration measures are needed.
* building of checkdams
* drip irrigation
* water conservation measures and watershed development

**Fact:**

* On an average, Marathwada receives between 800mm and 900mm of annual rainfall. The average net irrigation requirement of sugarcane at root zone is 2,000mm.
* The two biggest water-guzzling industries in Marathwada are sugarcane and beer. To produce a kg of sugar, you need 1,904 litres of water, while brewing a litre of beer needs 12 litres of water.

*Topic:Role of women; Social empowerment*

[**1) A recent data released by the Global Media Monitoring Project report clearly shows that age-old discriminatory practices against women in the mainstream media are now being passed on to online media as well. Discuss the nature of this discrimination and measures needed to address it. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/11/1-recent-data-released-global-media-monitoring-project-report-clearly-shows-age-old-discriminatory-practices-women-mainstream-media-now-passed-online-medi/)

[Livemint](http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/0Qu8imLEncGOrrCvlJfWNK/Online-voices-of-offline-people.html)

**Facts:**

* Only 36% of news on the Internet is about women in India.
* Social networking platforms such as Twitter are male-dominated, with men taking up 64% of news space.
* However, when it comes to online reporters, India outnumbers most countries with 59% women, while neighbouring Bangladesh does not have a single woman involved in reporting news online.

**Nature of discrimination:**

* This discrimination in the media comes from the discrimination practised in our society.
* **Lack of mobile access:**
  + most mobile users in a community or village are men, and not women.
  + In rural areas, women, if they have access to a phone, **usually get a second-hand instrument** and often have to share it with other women in the household.
  + 72% of women do not have access to mobiles in India.
* **Forms of harassment can vary widely,** from name-calling and trolling to persistent stalking and shaming to outright sexual and death threats.
* **Loophole in legal provisions:**
  + The [Telecommunications Act of 1996](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/47/230)allowed operators of websites to avoid liability for what users post, although the limits of this continue to be [tested in the courts](http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/06/01/the-darkest-side-of-online-harassment-menacing-behavior/) and many aspects of the Communications Decency Act provision are [not entirely settled](http://www.dmlp.org/legal-guide/online-activities-covered-section-230).
  + But it remains the case that the wide-open environment that enables creativity, innovation and vigorous debate online paradoxically also enables derogatory, anonymous speech for which**there is often**[**little legal recourse**](http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2014/11/what-the-law-can-and-cant-do-about-online-harassment/382638/).
* Because of the volume of data and information they deal with, many Internet and social media**companies struggle to articulate and enforce standards**, even on more obvious issues such as the online [messaging of violent extremists](http://journalistsresource.org/studies/society/social-media/social-media-violent-extremism-isis-online-speech-research-review).
* It seems that the **discrimination practised in our daily lives is gradually becoming a part of the digital medium**. coverage of scheduled castes and adivasis, who constitute over a quarter of India’s population, has historically been inadequate in main stream media.
  + Mostly, it appears only after heinous atrocities, when dalit children are burnt alive, when a panchayat orders a low-caste rape victim’s nose chopped off, or when an entire family is hacked to pieces
* **Ignoring communities:**
  + Dalits, tribals, socially backward, financially weak, and communities that are geographically remote are always ignored over political news ,sports news, business news, celebrity gossip and even news about big brand/company names.
* Also, environment hardly ever makes it to the front page. Perhaps this is because mainstream media is gradually being taken over or controlled by corporate entities, making their neutrality and ethical responsibility questionable.

**Measures needed:-**

* See girls don’t dropout from schools.Like universal primary education universal girl education need to be promoted.
* **Promote gender equality in schools**and widen access to education for girls.-saksham,startup-women enterpreneurs,skill India need to be implemented
* Like Aakash laptop **government can incentivise low cost mobile for women**
* Strict action against people who troll people by **the internet forums** like facebook ,twitter etc..
  + Google’s **help get women online** initiative
  + social media sites like Twitter and Facebook have mechanisms to report abuse.
  + On receiving a complaint, Twitter probes and suspends the accountif it finds merit in the complaint.
  + IDR noted that while Facebook advises complainants to block the abuser and claims to have removed the abusive content,
* **Digital India** is a positive move. Improve network quality,
* Government need to take **strict measures against cyber bullying, cyber theft,cyber stalking etc.**
* People need to shown worldwide best examples of **empowered women** like indra nooyi,chandha kochar etc
* **Women transform campaign** of NITI aayog
* Police advising the victim on how to conduct herself has permeated in the online realm, too.**Mumbai police has uploaded**four YouTube videos**on cyber security.**

*Topic: Effects of globalization on Indian society*

[**2) What do you understand by populism? It is said that globalisation is fuelling populism across the world. Critically examine. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/11/2-understand-populism-said-globalisation-fuelling-populism-across-world-critically-examine/)

[Business Standard](http://www.business-standard.com/article/opinion/daniel-gros-is-globalisation-really-fuelling-populism-116051001459_1.html)

**Populism:-**

* Populism is defined as a political doctrine that represents the interests of ordinary people, especially in a struggle against a privileged elite.
* It is a potent political catalyst harnessed by leaders to increase their circles of influence by channeling the broad support of a society’s population, often by blurring people’s perceptions of their own interests with the interests of the nation-state they identify with.
* This fusion of populism and nationalism is behind the creation of many contemporary far right movements in Europe, in East Asia, and in the United States.
* Populism can be read as a fever warning which signals that problems are not being dealt with effectively, or points to the malfunctioning of the linkages between citizens and governing elites

**Globalisation is fuelling populism:-**

**Yes:**

* Populist parties are managing to enter the political centre stage. This is partly **the result of the drift to the right in the European political discourse concerning issues of immigration, Islam and the concept of a multicultural society.**
* The discourse of adaptation and competitive adjustment applied to the EU as a whole (vis-à-vis China and India), to the level of specific countries, or to companies and to individuals has a strong impact upon and bias against the low-skilled, the ‘ordinary people’, the lower middle class, and the non-academic professionals.
  + This bias is the **root cause for populist resentment and revolt**. **Policy and political elites are selling and producing insecurity and uncertainty,** instead of showing security and stable leadership in a world of flux.
* European policy elites do not show welfare state pride stability in times of change and reform. This ambivalence about the very foundations of the European welfare state models is **in itself producing populist unrest.**
* The **new right-wing populism that emerged in the last decade of the last century can be called populist because it claims to represent ‘the people’ and to be mobilising them against a domineering establishment**. It can be classified as right-wing populist because it claims to be defending and shielding national, cultural or ethnic identity against ‘outsiders’ or external influences. In this sense there are connections to xenophobic, racist or far-right parties and political ideologies.
* Through election campaigns and permanent communication strategies (spin doctors) political leaders are trying to connect to a mass audience for vote maximisation and popular approval. **In a way, modern democracies are doomed to be populistic in this sense**.
  + **Like in india political parties use populist policies during elections targeting minorities as vote banks.**
* the new populist revolt must be characterised as a revolt against the new world as conceived and promoted by the mainstream political, cultural and economic elites, the new global world, and as driven by the international forces of economic liberalism and cultural liberalism and  is ext**ending to great parts of the middle class electorate.**
* **By**those parties that most successfully appeal to the interests and fears of the ’losers’ of globalisation to be the driving force of the current transformation
* The citizens who had an improve in the standard of living are winners of globalisation and others the losers of this process so the political parties target the losers especially the poor.
* that globalisation has fundamentally transformed economies, sending low-skill jobs to the developing world — a point that populist figures never tire of highlighting.
* Globalisation affected SME’s in an adverse way. Now to cater to the needs of the people government promises domestic production.

**Not every populist measure is inspired from globalisation:-**

* Political parties think that **providing individual benefits is the surest way to win over voters, especially the poor.**
  + Indian politics is replete with numerous examples of political parties competing in promising individual benefits such as social welfare pensions, loan waivers, housing, Rs2 rice, free power, etc. This list is now expanding rapidly to include modern consumer durables such as television sets, cellphones and refrigerators.
  + Such individual-centric promises are a natural progression from the well-documented practice of purchasing votes by allurements of liquor and cash. **The result is an increasing trend towards competitive populism**, targeted at the individual voter
* Populism means expenditure programmes aimed at subsidising a large, preferably majority, of the voting population. In many countries, populism would be social expenditures targeted at the middle class. In India, **these schemes would be those targeted at the absolute poor.**

*Topic: Changes in critical geographical features (including waterbodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.*

[**1) Why and how is India’s agriculture vulnerable to climate change? What policy prescriptions would you suggest to safeguard farmers against climate change effects? Discuss. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/12/1-indias-agriculture-vulnerable-climate-change-policy-prescriptions-suggest-safeguard-farmers-climate-change-effects-discuss/)

[The Hindu](http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/insure-farmers-against-climate-change/article8587072.ece)

**How is India’s Agriculture vulnerable to climate change?**

* **Bundelkhand region –**
  + experienced drastic variation in climate in recent times. It faced a drought from 2003 to 2010, then floods in 2011, delayed monsoons in 2012 and 2013, and drought again since 2014. .
  + Farmers tried everything to adapt — growing a mix of dry crops during the *kharif ,rabi*wheat with cash crops like chickpea and mustard but effort went in vain.
* The past two winters, with hailstorms and unseasonal rain,**destroyed crops** leading to farmer suicides and mass migration.
* **India is uniquely vulnerable to rising temperatures** .It ranks in the top 20 in the Climate Change Vulnerability Index. India’s average surface temperature, over the past four decades, has risen by 0.3° Celsius
* **With the majority of all landholdings in India measuring less than a hectare, marginal farmers face a steep decline in household income** **and a concomitant rise in household poverty** through exacerbated droughts.
* Climate change would **impact soil health**, **with increasing surface temperatures leading to higher CO2 emissions and reducing natural nitrogen availability**.
  + Mitigating this by **increasing chemical fertilizer usage could impact long-term soil fertility**, leaving the soil open to greater erosion and desertification.
* Meanwhile, migration patterns, **farmer suicides and stagnating rural incomes, along with increasingly ad hoc land acquisition** in the name of public goods, have politicised the idea of climate mitigation. **Marginal farmland will increasingly be useless for agriculture.**
* **Regional crop patterns** assume a specific range of weather variability, failing to cope with the recent high periods of heavy rainfall with long dry intervals.
  + In 2013, large crops of wheat, gram, lentils and mustard, weeks away from harvesting, were destroyed in untimely rains.
  + India’s flood-affected area has doubled since Independence, despite generous state spending on flood protection schemes.
* Research has highlighted the deleterious **impact of climate change on crop production.**
  + Limited temperature rises could lead to a 22 per cent decline in wheat yield in the *rabi*season, while rice yield could decline by 15 per cent.
  + Other staple crops sorghum, groundnut, chickpea could see a sharp decline.
  + it is estimated that without rising temperatures and rain variability, India’s rice production over the past four decades could have been 8 per cent higher.
  + India is home to the largest hungry population — falling agricultural yields will only make matters worse.

* Climate change will **impact the entire food production chain**, affecting food security.
  + **Livestock production**, often considered to be a substitute to farming for marginal farmers, would face reduced fodder supplies given a decline in crop area or production.

**Policy prescriptions for safeguarding farmers against climate change effects :-**

* **National Commission on Farmers suggested that a rural spending plan,** focussed on investments in agriculture infrastructure, particularly in irrigation, rainwater harvesting and a national network of soil-testing laboratories is needed.
  + Simple **water harvesting and conservation measures** (micro-irrigation, watershed management and insurance coverage) can reduce the majority of the potential loss due to drought
  + **conservation farming and dryland agriculture** should be promoted.
  + Each village should be provided **timely rainfall forecasts along with weather-based forewarnings** regarding crop pests and epidemics in various seasons.
* **Drought strategies should be extended to the village level** — for example, each village should have a village pond, created under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
* **Afforestation**, should be encouraged to help modify regional climates and prevent soil erosion.
* adoption of drought-tolerant breeds can help reduce production risks by nearly a third, while offering attractive returns to breeders.
* Changing planting dates could have a significant impact; research highlights that **planting wheat earlier than usual can help reduce climate change-induced damage**.
* **Zero tillage and laser-based levelling can also help conserve water and land resources.**
* **Crop planning can be conducted as per the climatic zones** of different regions, while utilising better genotypes for rain-fed conditions.
* Focus on expanding **formal credit system** to reach all marginal farmers.
* **Insurance coverage** should be expanded to all crops while reducing the rate of interest to nominal levels, with government support and an expanded Rural Insurance Development Fund.
  + The Centre and States should launch an **integrated crop, livestock and family health insurance package** while instituting an Agriculture Credit Risk Fund to provide relief in the aftermath of successive natural disasters.
* A **debt moratorium policy on drought-distressed hotspots** and areas facing climate change calamities should be announced, waiving interest on loans till farming incomes are restored.
* **systemic support for irrigation, infrastructure and rural institutions** can help move India beyond climate change-induced food insecurity, strengthening our stressed food production systems.

*Topic: Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent*

[**2) While India has adequate freshwater, its spatial and temporal distribution is very skewed, and usage inefficient and wasteful.  Discuss how inefficiently fresh water is managed and how it can be efficiently managed in India. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/12/2-india-adequate-freshwater-spatial-temporal-distribution-skewed-usage-inefficient-wasteful-discuss-inefficiently-fresh-water-managed-can-ef/)

[Livemint](http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/OqNlJtLZ1K1V05DCkfZKfK/Managing-Indias-freshwater.html)

**Inefficient freshwater management in India :**

* The ministry of water resources has estimated that with 2.5% of global landmass, India has 4% of the world’s freshwater resources. This has however come under increasing demographic stress since India is home to about 16% of world population and the distribution of freshwater is skewed spatially and temporally.
* Most rainfall is received over a relatively short duration during the monsoon. This leads to**temporary flooding.** **Huge amounts of surface water quickly drain into the sea.**
* The **biggest culprit is agriculture** that accounts for 80% of all freshwater usage. Flood irrigation, prevalent in more than 95% of the irrigated area, damages both ecology and farm economics.
  + Farmers at the tail end of major command systems receive delayed and deficient supplies, while those **upstream use the grossly underpriced water wastefully.**
* humans have only recently developed the **technology to tap deep aquifers.** This can completely empty them within a relatively short period of time as is visible currently in Maharashtra.
* **Groundwater depletion**
  + In urban areas is largely due to poor piped drinking water supply.
  + In rural areas, regions away from river systems are constrained to fall back on groundwater for agricultural expansion, as in large parts of western, central and peninsular India.
  + These are mostly areas of dry land cultivation, where agricultural productivity has expanded in recent times through**massive, unsustainable exploitation of deep aquifers.**
  + **The drilling rig and electric pump revolution has permanently depleted groundwater reserves in several areas**, with water and power subsidies compounding the problem through inefficient use of a scarce resource.
  + Excessive drawal has also**led to increasing concentration of toxic elements** such as fluoride, arsenic and salinity in several areas.
* Several states are considering **legislation to regulate the use of groundwater.** **Such efforts have however met with limited success** as it has been impossible to monitor the large numbers of tube wells that have proliferated all over the country.
* **Subsurface water resources belong to the property owner**. Where private property sits on a deep aquifer, the owner is within his rights to drain the entire aquifer that may extend far beyond the boundaries of his property. This creates a huge problem.

**Measures needed to improve :**

* The Central Water Commission estimated that the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna basin with 33% of the landmass had 60% of total water flows. The controversial **river-linking scheme** to transfer water from surplus to deficit basins was mooted to address this spatial imbalance.
* **time-bound plan to bring the entire cropped area under controlled irrigation**(sprinklers, underground pipes and other water conservation devices) should be undertaken.
* The pace of the run-off **can be reduced through inter-basin transfers, new storage reservoirs, desilting, reviving traditional water storage structures**such as ponds, dissemination of groundwater recharge technologies, and water harvesting structures such as**check dams, open draw wells and rooftop devices.**
* **Modern science and technology** can be leveraged to artificially increase the rate of recharge of aquifers, thereby enhancing the sustainable exploitation of deep aquifers.
* It is imperative to have a **good database updated in real time on the size and sustainable levels of exploitation of our freshwater resources**. The beginning made through the**National Hydrology Project needs to be extended** and made more comprehensive, including through mapping of deep aquifers in the country and determining rates of recharge.
* Landowners should be free to tap the annually rechargeable phreatic water table through open wells on their property, **but deep aquifers need to be treated as a common resource.**
* **Policy coordination** is essential to improve the management of the country’s scarce water resources.
  + In the US, all water issues are handled by the department of agriculture
  + In India, **water falls between several stools**.
    - **Agriculture,is outside the purview of the ministry of water resources that frames the national water policy**.
    - Drinking water falls within the domains of the ministries of rural development, urban development and Panchayat Raj. **This departmental fragmentation of water management needs to change, both in the centre and the states.**
  + A **major legislative change** which puts water on par with other natural resources is needed.

*Topic: Communalism; Social empowerment*

[**1) According to 2014 NCRB data, Muslims have the highest non-convict to convict prisoner ratio in the country and in most states. Do Muslims in India suffer a bias when it comes to imprisonment and conviction? Analyse. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/13/1-according-2014-ncrb-data-muslims-highest-non-convict-convict-prisoner-ratio-country-states-muslims-india-suffer-bias-comes-imprisonment-co/)

[Livemint](http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/93JZlySuxiVURtuqbA61TN/Do-Muslims-in-India-suffer-a-bias-when-it-comes-to-imprisonm.html)

**Fact:-**

The share of Muslims in total convicted and undertrial prisoners at the end of 2014 was 16.38% and 21.05%, respectively, higher than their population share of 14.23%

**Yes,Muslims suffer a bias:**

* Muslims suffer **most in India’s notoriously slow criminal justice system**. That is the ratio of non-convicted to convicted prisoners is disproportionate.
* The high ratio of non-convicted to convicted prisoners among Muslims could be owing to the**higher number of terror cases against people from this community,**
  + Not only do trials in such cases take a long time, judges are reluctant to release such accused persons on bail.
  + Rules which allow undertrials to be released when they have completed more than half the maximum sentence possible are not applicable in terror cases.
* **Ingrained bias in the police against Muslims**, which often leads to their victimization. In a riot in Uttar Pradesh, Muslims were the maximum among those killed as well as arrested
  + Most respondents (Muslim prisoners) stated conflict with the police system as the reason for their being in prison, which led to false implications in cases or mere suspicion leading to arrests.
  + The other point of note is that Muslims from states such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar reported greater bias against them, suggesting **migrants are more vulnerable to police system**
* Because Muslims are among the most socio-economically backward communities, **they might be more vulnerable to the perversities present in our criminal justice system**.
  + Increasingly, people have to bank on higher courts for relief due to serious lapses, inefficiency and non-realisation of legal safeguards at the lower level,
* The percentage of inmates from three minority communities in India Dalits, Muslims and the adivasis is disproportionately higher than their total population and make up more than half the prison population in the country.
* According to the 2013 Census, there were 4.2 lakh people in Indian prisons. Almost 20 percent of them were Muslims although according to the Census 2001 percentage share of Muslims in India’s population was merely 13 percent.
* Usually reeling under social and economic problems, people from these communities **hardly havefinancial capacity to move to courts for bail and are unable to engage good lawyers during trial.**
* The relative backwardness of Muslims on socio-economic indicators might be a cause for their higher share in prisoner population (African-Americans in the US have a similar story).
  + One of the reason is that Muslims are lower in social strata, which is below SC and ST, thus they are more susceptible to crimes.

**No :-**

* That does not necessarily mean that Muslims might be a persecuted community in India. The number of prisoners from all three significant religious minority groups (Muslims, Christians and Sikhs) is disproportionate to their population
* problems related to clogged courts and slow wheels of justice are faced by all people

*Topic: Political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.- their forms and effect on the society*

[**1) “The 20th century brand of socialism, following the Bolshevik victory as the prototype of socialisms, has nothing to do with socialism as envisaged by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.” Discuss how different is prevailing socialism from that of Marx’s socialism. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/14/1-20th-century-brand-socialism-following-bolshevik-victory-prototype-socialisms-nothing-socialism-envisaged-karl-marx-friedrich-engels-discuss-d/)

[EPW](http://www.epw.in/system/files/pdf/2016_51/20/Twentieth_Century_Socialism_0.pdf)

**Differences between 20th century Bolshevik socialism and Marxian socialism:**

* The Marxian socialism is based on the “associated mode of production.” The 20th century socialism is quite aptly recognised as a system of party-state
* the socialism that emerges from the works of these avowed “Marxists” turns out to be the **exact opposite of the socialism** which one finds in Marx’s extant texts.
  + the Bolshevised socialism is a state under the absolute rule of the communist party, **passing for a proletarian state, owning the means of production under the appellation of “public ownership**” and employing wage labour whose products take the commodity form.
  + **Needless to stress, this statist socialism based on wage slavery is the exact antipode of Marx’s immensely emancipatory socialism**conceived as a “union of free individuals” without private ownership of either variety – individual or collective – without state, without commodity production and without wage labour
  + **the idea that ownership relations determine production relations and that the juridical abolition of a specific form of capitalist ownership, that is, private individual ownership of the means of production signifies the abolition of capitalism itself**
* **Communism**was originally envisioned by Marx and Engels as the last stages of their socialist revolution. “The meaning of the word communism shifted after 1917, when Bolshevik Party seized power in Russia. The Bolsheviks changed their name to the Communist Party and installed a single-party regime devoted to the implementation of socialist policies
* **Whereas Marx saw industrialized workers rising up to take over control of their means of production, the exact opposite happened**. Most countries that have gone Communist have been agrarian underdeveloped nations. The prime example is the Soviet Union. The best thing to be said about the October Revolution in 1917 is that the **new government was better than the Tsars.**
* Marxism became Marxist-Leninism which became Stalinism. Instead of bourgeoise who owned the means of production **now it is a bureaucratized degenerated workers state** that is, a state in which exploitation is controlled by a ruling caste which, while it did not own the means of production and was not a social class in its own right, accrued benefits and privileges at the expense of the working class.”
* Marxism focussed on **overthrowing of capitalism** but Bolsheviks concentrated on overthrowing of Tsars.

**Prevailing socialism vs Marxism:**

* The fundamental characteristic which separates socialism envisaged by Marx from the prevailing socialism is that Marx’s socialism, conceived as an association of free individuals, **is a completely de-alienated society with no commodity, no money, no waged/salaried labour, no state, all of which are considered as instruments of exploitation and repression of a class society** used to put down the immense majority of the humans.
* Modern day socialism differs from Marx’s socialism in one key parameter: **ownership of resources.**A wide majority of leaders and political outfits have acknowledged this as to be a utopian dream. Instead they envisage a socialist state to be a state which fulfills its basic responsibilities towards its citizens on a rights based approach
* Marx wanted stateless and classless society but we see today state is becoming more powerful with the help of caste and class division.
* Coexistence of socialistic and capitalistic societies can been seen together contrary to Marx’s prediction of complete downfall of capitalistic society.
* Identity crisis among the nations whether they are socialist,communist or what their actual ideology is .

*Topic: Distribution of key natural resources; Changes in critical geographical features*

[**1) What do you understand by ‘One Straw Revolution’ concept? Discuss some of the methods that help in groundwater recharge even in dry regions. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/16/1-understand-one-straw-revolution-concept-discuss-methods-help-groundwater-recharge-even-dry-regions/)

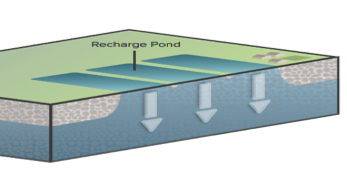
[The Hindu](http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/a-farmers-natural-solution-to-agricultural-crisis/article8605920.ece)

**One straw revolution concept:-**

* Inspired by Masanobu Fukuoka, a Japanese farmer and philosopher
* He advised **against use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides** ,decided against ploughing and weeding.
* the introduction of compatible plants would not only tackle the menace of weeds but add to soil fertility and the symbiotic relationship in nature addresses any imbalance on its own obviating the need for human interference.
* Gave precedence to natural farming.

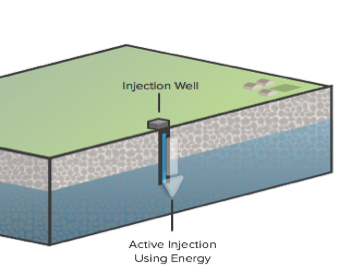
**Methods that help in groundwater recharge even in dry regions:**

* **Recharge Ponds**
  + The most common method used, recharge ponds are constructed surface basins that allow water to slowly infiltrate through the soil into the underground aquifer.

[](http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/injection-well.png)

·      Injection Wells

o   A more energy-intensive method that uses high pressure pumps to actively ‘push’ water into aquifers.

[](http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/inje.png)

* **Afforestration**
  + The role of plants in the groundwater recharge is very qualitative and quantitative.
  + plant metabolism makes plant surfaces especially leaves to sink and source areas of chemicals.
  + Plants take transpiration water in humid and semi arid areas from the effective root zone ,in desert areas typically 4 to 6 m b.g.s and most trees are deeper rooted than other forms of vegetation.
  + Hence transpire much more percolation water than shallow rooting plants do.
* **Infiltration:**
  + is the **process of transition of precipitation or surface water to the subsurface** ;hence it describes the process of how infiltration influences the dimensions of fluxes and storage in the percolation zone0
  + .In all topographies lineal and local infiltration triggers a two to three dimensional percolation flow;in contrast aerial infiltration produces in flat areas always and in hilly areas often a one dimensional vertical percolation.
* **Rainwater harvesting via roof tops**
* No excessive tube well irrigation. **soak pits** around the tube wells so that it will help in ground water recharge
* **Implementation of Aquifer mapping programme** by government in which maps would help in proper estimation of the groundwater.

*Topic: Social empowerment*

[**1) Should there be reservation for transgender people in government jobs and educational institutions? Critically comment.  (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/19/1-reservation-transgender-people-government-jobs-educational-institutions-critically-comment/)

[Business Standard](http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/govt-moots-bill-for-protection-of-third-gender-s-rights-116051900042_1.html)

Currently, there is no law for transgender people in the country. The 2011 Census was the first time data on the third gender was collected. It put the population of transgender people at nearly 500,000. However, Reports claim the figure could be as much as 2.5 million

In a**census conducted this year**, the official count of transgenders was pegged at 4.9 lakh, though activists have said that the real number was six times the official number.

**Yes,Reservation is needed:-**

* **Reservation according to Indian Constitution** is needed to uplift socio economic backward classes .This criteria fits perfectly for Transgenders as they are one of the most severely marginalised, impoverished and blatantly exploited communities of the country .
* **Even Supreme court in 2014** created the ‘third gender’ status for transgender people and asked the Centre to treat the community as socially and economically backward.*SC said they should be given educational and employment reservation as OBCs.*
* Most transgenders, even if **they are born in an upper caste, cannot survive for too long in Indian society** without grouping with others from the community. There have been several reports of **police atrocities, and sexual assault against them.** Nothing about their social and political reality makes them any less disenfranchised than a backward caste.
* According to UNDP report a primary reason (and consequence) of the exclusion is **the lack of (or ambiguity in) legal recognition** of the gender status of transgender people. It is a key barrier that often prevents them in exercising their civil rights in their desired gender.
  + It is a key barrier that often prevent them in exercising their rights related to marriage with a person of their desired gender, child adoption, inheritance, wills and trusts, employment, and access to public and private health services, and access to and use of social welfare and health insurance scheme.
  + The report links this lack of legal recognition to the **escalating incidents of HIV+** among the transgender community as they not only face poverty and have to turn to sex work for survival .
  + Given the stigma around their existence**, it’s also equally difficult for them to both afford and avail medial aid.**
* In some instances despite their qualifications, they could not get suitable jobs and were discriminated against and disregarded for the only reasons that they did not come under the group ‘male’ or ‘female’.
* Most members of the community live in poverty, reservations could economically and socially uplift them.

***No:***

* But Government feels it isn’t feasible to group transgenders with OBCs as some of them might already be from backward classes and hence it’s problematic to classify them as OBCs on the basis of their gender identity.
* Since a lot of the transgenders might have been born to different castes, it is wrong to club them as OBCs.

**What can be done ?**

* Establishment of a **hijra, intersex and transgender welfare board** similar to those in States including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra all over India is welcome.
* The government’s housing projects should be extended to homeless members of the community.
* **Need for passage of the Rights of Transgender Persons Bill 2014:**
  + provides for the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive national policy to ensure overall development and welfare of transgenders by the State.
  + demanded two percent reservation for transgender people in government jobs and educational institutions.
* The Centre has to ensure increase of social welfare schemes for the community.
* Need to introduce issues about the community in school curriculum to sensitise children.

*Topic: Social empowerment; Role of women,*

[**1) According to Monster Salary Index, India suffers from huge gender pay gap. Discuss the causes and remedies. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/20/1-according-monster-salary-index-india-suffers-huge-gender-pay-gap-discuss-causes-remedies/)

[Business Standard](http://www.business-standard.com/article/opinion/shyamal-majumdar-explaining-the-gender-pay-gap-116051900312_1.html)

Background:

* Monster Salary Index, a joint initiative of Monster India & Paycheck.in with IIM-A as research partner, is based on the salary of millions of profiles across different industry verticals, functions and roles.
* The observations made in the Monster Salary Index report on India’s gender pay gap have few surprises, except that the gap is as much as 34 per cent in the information technology (IT) sector, which is supposed to employ relatively better-skilled people.
  + What is even more alarming is that the pay gap in this sector has increased from around 29 per cent a year earlier.

Causes:

* Patriarchal mindset issues in India:
  + several institutions prefer male employees over female employees
  + promote a higher number of male employees to supervisory positions even though there is hardly any evidence to suggest that a woman will compete less than a man if the right cultural incentives are in place.
  + Working women can be targeted for discrimination and denied job opportunities altogether because of negative stereotypes about their caregiving roles—stereotypes that men are less likely to face.
* Companies say such gender pay gap exists because of divided work-family loyalties, as women take more time off from work to care for their families, leading to long career breaks. By the time they return to the job market, they have often missed the bus.
* Evidence exists that women lose out through voluntary termination of service at a rate two or three times faster than men once they have attained the experienced, mid-career level.
* India, in fact, sees the highest drop in representation of women from junior to middle-level positions, unlike several other Asian countries where such a drop occurs from middle- to senior-level positions.
  + For example, an analysis done by ICICI Group showed that at junior management levels in ICICI Bank, the representation of women in attrition is around two per cent higher than their representation in the total grade population.
  + In other words, if at these levels, women constitute 25 per cent, then their representation in attrition is 27 per cent.
  + This, in turn, impacts the supply line for higher levels.
* Data also showed almost one-third of women employees have not resumed work in the absence of a support system at home to take care of the child.
* Across the World- identified societal factor that has been identified is the influx of women of color and immigrants into the work force.
  + These groups both tend to be subject to lower paying jobs from a statistical perspective.

Remedies:

* Flexible work policies or extended leave can be a minor enabler for those who possess career aspirations in a situation where close to 78 per cent of eligible female graduates choose not to participate in the organised workforce.
* Implement Pay Transparency:-
  + let everyone know what their colleagues are earning and that would make women aware if they are making less than their male counterparts. It would force organizations to establish a meritocracy.
* Eliminate Negotiation:-
  + Study after study show that women don’t perform as well as men in negotiations.Often women avoid negotiation altogether, accepting the first offer presented by a prospective employer.
* Raising the minimum wage and the tipped minimum wage are important steps towards fair pay for women.
* Encourage all genders to help women succeed in the work place:
  + Men are an integral part in the fight for wage equality. Initiatives likeUN’s He For She encourage men to help women to successfully achieve gender equality, which includes toppling the pay gap.
* Pass paid family leave policies:
  + Recently, there’s been a big push for paid family leave, guaranteeing both parents to the right to take paid time off of work to care for their children.
* Ensure access to affordable childcare:-
  + When women especially women making minimum wage have access to affordable childcare, they’re able to stay in the workforce longer.

·      Promote gender equality in schools as promoted by Saksham program- which makes adolescent boys gender-sensitive and make citizens aware.

·      Pass paid sick days legislation:-

o   A national paid family and medical leave insurance program would provide wage replacement to working women and men when they must take time off to care for their families, bolstering families economic security.

*Topic: Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues*

[**1) Critically analyse the legacy of Robert Clive as a colonial administrator in India. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/23/1-critically-analyse-legacy-robert-clive-colonial-administrator/)

[The Hindu](http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/litfest-discusses-reparation-for-colonial-injustice/article8634157.ece)

**Successes:**

* **His success started during the carnatic wars itself**
  + **Tanjore expedition:**
    - The daring move by Clive had an important consequence: the Tanjoreans abandoned the fort, which the British triumphantly occupied. The success prompted the Tanjorean rajah to open peace talks, which resulted in the British being awarded Devikottai and the costs of their expedition,
  + **Carnatic wars:**
    - When actually the English were losing ground and the French were gaining success. Both at Hyderabad and the Carnatic the candidate of Dupleix ruled as monarchs. In the whole of the Deccan the British prestige was at the lowest point.
    - **It was at that critical point of time Clive stepped into show the talent both in ideas and action.** Under his leadership the capital of Carnatic Arcot was attacked and captured that suddenly turned the course of the Second Carnatic War.

* **External policy:**
  + In his external policy Clive had to face one of the most difficult tests of statesmanship: that of knowing where to stop. Though there was nothing to prevent him from restoring Shah ʿĀlam II to Delhi and ruling north India in his name, he decided to limit the company’s commitments to Bengal and Bihar.
* **Bengal:**
  + Oudhwas returned to Shujāʿ al-Dawlah as a buffer state between Bengal and the turbulent northwest. The emperor was solaced with an annual tribute, and in return he conferred the revenue administration (*dewanee*) of Bengal on the East India Company.
  + This grant formed the key to the settlement of Bengal. **It gave legal authority to the company to collect the revenues of Bengal and Bihar, sending the emperor only his annual tribute**.
* **Dual system:**
  + Clive placed a Nawab on the throne. The Nawab remained in charge of the administration of Law and Order and Justice. He was paid an annual grant for the maintenance of officials and for his own expenses.
  + The Company retained the power of the collection of the revenue and military administration.
  + For all his successes he was considered the title as the founder of the British Empire in India.
* **Reforming Company’s service:**
  + Clive’s third task was the **reform of the company’s service**.
  + All company servants were required to sign covenants not to receive presents worth more than 1,000 rupees without the consent of the governor.
  + Private trade, the abuse of which had caused the war, was forbidden.
  + On the other hand he enhanced their salary. To improve the financial condition of the company Clive reduced the amount of Batta which the soldiers used to receive during peace time.
* His victory over the French power in the South, over Siraj-ud-daula in the Battle of Plassey and his gain of Diwani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa were the solid pillars on which the future castle of the East India Company constructed.

**Negatives:**

* Modern historians have criticised him for atrocities, for high taxes, and for the forced cultivation of crops which exacerbated famines.
* **Clive could not mark himself as an administrator. He had the golden opportunity to give to his conquered territories a good and efficient government**
  + His Dual Government was an example of the abuse of power. Bengal suffered one of her worst days in history due to the introduction of that system.
  + Oppression continued. People suffered untold misery and thus the Economic crisis followed.

*Topic: World Geography*

[**2) It has been found that the sea ice cover surrounding Antarctica been increasing slightly, in sharp contrast to the drastic loss of sea ice occurring in the Arctic Ocean. Examine why. Also discuss implications of ice loss in the Arctic Ocean. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/23/2-found-sea-ice-cover-surrounding-antarctica-increasing-slightly-sharp-contrast-drastic-loss-sea-ice-occurring-arctic-ocean-examine-also-discuss/)

[The Hindu](http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/why-sea-ice-cover-around-antarctica-is-rising/article8634120.ece)

**Reasons for increase in ice cover surrounding Antarctica:-**

* A new NASA-led study has found the**geology of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean** is responsible.
* They found that two persistent geological factors **the topography of Antarctica and the depth of the ocean surrounding it** are influencing winds and ocean currents, respectively, to drive the formation and evolution of Antarctica’s sea ice cover and help sustain it.
* The behaviour of Antarctic sea ice is entirely consistent with the geophysical characteristics found in the southern polar region, which differ sharply from those present in the Arctic
* Their analyses revealed that as sea ice forms and builds up early in the sea ice growth season, it gets pushed offshore and northward by winds, forming a protective shield of older, thicker ice that circulates around the continent.
* The persistent winds, which flow down slope off the continent and are shaped by Antarctica’s topography, pile ice up against the massive ice shield, enhancing its thickness.
* This band of ice, which varies in width from roughly 100 to 1,000 km, encapsulates and protects younger, thinner ice in the ice pack behind it from being reduced by winds and waves.
* As the sea ice cover expands and ice drifts away from the continent, areas of open water form behind it on the sea surface, creating “ice factories” conducive to rapid sea ice growth

**Implications of ice loss in Arctic:**

**Loss of ice means more heat is absorbed**

* The less sunlight is reflected, the more heat the planet absorbs.
* The heat doesn’t only warm the oceans. Heat entering the oceans during summer is later released back into the atmosphere raising atmospheric temperatures too. It’s one important reason why the Arctic is warming faster than the rest of the planet.

**Melting Greenland ice sheet raises sea levels**

* As land ice melts, it adds freshwater to the oceans causing sea levels to rise, and surface melt from Greenland is increasing.
* The newest climate models project that by 2100, Greenland’s ice sheet could contribute four to nine centimetres to sea level.
* Warmer, sea ice free oceans could also increase melting from Greenland’s glaciers.

**Thawing permafrost amplifies warming**

* Rising Arctic temperatures are thawingonce-frozen ground in the Arctic known as permafrost.
* Scientists are concernedcarbon dioxide and methane released from the carbon-rich permafrost could cause additional warming by adding to greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere – another positive feedback.

**Ocean circulations could change**

* Another impact of Arctic ice melt could be that the freshwater runoff into the ocean disrupts part of a major circulation system known as the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation ( AMOC).
* The AMOC carries warm surface water northward, giving Europe its mild climate.
* Models suggest a slowdown in the AMOC could coolthe northern hemisphere this century, but the effect is likely to be outweighed by greenhouse gas warming
* so losing ice could affect regional climates worldwide.

**Melting sea ice can influence winter weather:**

* As temperatures rise faster in the Arctic than at lower latitudes, this changes large-scale temperature and pressure gradients which has consequences for northern hemisphere winter weather.
* The pressure change alters atmospheric circulations, including the jet stream.It also makes the jet stream’s path meander more, which allows cold Arctic air to reach further south, affecting the climate in the mid-latitudes.

**Severe threats to polar creatures**:

* Polar creatures that depend on ice for all or parts of their life cycle are highly threatened by a warming world.
  + In the south polar region, some penguin colonies are moving to new locations because their main food source krill is changing in response to shifting ocean temperatures.
  + In the Arctic, polar bears must swim greater distances in open water to find the sea-ice habitat that is home to their prey seals

**Threats to indigenous ways of life**:

* These changes in animal habitat and abundance threaten indigenous ways of life, some of which have flourished in the Arctic for thousands of years.
* Traditional hunting methods, for example, are becoming more risky because of thin ice, and because the dates when ice forms and thaws are less predictable.

**Shoreline erosion in Arctic**.

* The loss of sea ice also exposes Arctic coastal areas to severe erosion from wind and waves—sometimes forcing entire communities to move further inland to avoid collapsing shorelines.

**Security concerns from new shipping routes**:

* An ice-free Arctic Ocean might open up more efficient global shipping routes, and provide easier access to oil and gas deposits.
* However, both developments could bring security concerns, as Arctic countries vie for access to valuable resources or feel compelled to protect these natural and commercial resources.
* shorter trade routes through the Arctic could be a boon to export-driven nations like China.

**Geopolitical:**

* **Territorial disputes:**
  + In 2008, the five littoral Arctic nations reaffirmed their commitment to the law of the sea in the Arctic with the Ilulissat Declaration, but a few sovereignty disputes persist.
  + However, the 5 countries located along the shore of the Arctic Ocean – **Russia, the US, Denmark, Canada and Norway**– have competing territorial claims.
  + For example, the United States and other nations assert that the Northwest Passage is an international strait with free navigation rights, while Canada says it’s an inland waterway over which it maintains exclusive jurisdiction.
  + Washington and Ottawa also disagree on their maritime boundary in the resource-rich Beaufort Sea.
  + Several states have also made competing claims on the Lomonosov Ridge, an undersea mountain range bisecting the Arctic Ocean.
* **Energy reserves:**
  + S. Geological Survey (USGS), estimated that nearly one-quarter of the earth’s undiscovered, recoverable petroleum resources lie in the region: 13 percent of the oil; 30 percent of the natural gas; and 20 percent of the liquefied natural gas. More than 80 percent of these are thought to be offshore.
* Meanwhile, the overwhelming majority of Arctic resources fall within accepted national boundaries.
* The **Northern Sea Route** along Russia’s edge, that is likely to be free of ice first, can reduce the sailing distance between Asian ports and northern Europe by 40 per cent.
* The other major Arctic shipping route is the **Northwest Passage**, which connects Europe and Asia. It is nearly 5,000 nautical miles shorter than the 12,600 nautical mile distance between Europe and Asia through the Panama Canal.

*Topic: Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India)*

[**1) Analyse the factors that have contributed in the agglomeration of manufacturing industries in India. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/28/1-analyse-factors-contributed-agglomeration-manufacturing-industries-india/)

[EPW (Conclusion Part)](http://www.epw.in/system/files/pdf/2016_51/21/What_Causes_Agglomeration--Policy_or_Infrastructure%3F_0.pdf)

**Factors responsible for the agglomeration of manufacturing industries in India :**

* The most dominant factor of industrial location is the least cost.
  + **Cost of obtaining raw materials at site**: Manufacturing activity tends to locate at the most appropriate place where all the raw materials of production are either available or can be arranged at lower cost.
  + **Cost of production at site**: These are influenced by availability of labour, capital, power, etc. Thus industrial location is influenced by the costs of availability of these factors of production.
  + **Cost of distribution of production**: The distance of industry from market influence the transportation costs. Transportation costs influence the cost of distribution of production.
* **Raw materials:**
  + Indeed, the location of industrial enterprises is sometimes determined simply by location of the raw materials.
  + finished product of one industry may well be the raw material of another. For example, pig iron, produced by smelting industry, serves as the raw material for steel making industry.
* **Power:**
  + Regular supply of power is a pre-requisite for the localisation of industries. Coal, mineral oil and hydro-electricity are the three important conventional sources of power.
  + Most of the industries tend to concentrate at the source of power.
  + The iron and steel industry which mainly depends on large quantities of coking coal as source of power are frequently tied to coal fields.
* **Labour:**
  + Labour supply is important in two respects (a) workers in large numbers are often required; (b) people with skill or technical expertise are needed.
* **Transport:**
  + Transport by land or water is necessary for the assembly of raw materials and for the marketing of the finished products.
  + The development of railways in India, connecting the port towns with hinterland determined the location of many industries around Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai.
* **Market:**
  + The entire process of manufacturing is useless until the finished goods reach the market. Nearness to market is essential for quick disposal of manufactured goods.
  + It helps in reducing the transport cost and enables the consumer to get things at cheaper rates.
* **Water:**
  + Water is another important require­ment for industries. Many industries are established near rivers, canals and lakes, because of this reason.
  + Iron and steel industry, textile industries and chemical industries require large quantities of water, for their proper functioning.
* **Site:**
  + Site requirements for industrial development are of considerable significance. Sites, generally, should be flat and well served by adequate transport facilities.
* **Climate:**
  + Climate plays an important role in the establishment of industries at a place.
  + Harsh climate is not much suitable for the establishment of industries. There can be no industrial development in extremely hot, humid, dry or cold climate.
  + The extreme type of climate of north-west India hinders the development of industries.
  + In contrast to this, the moderate climate of west coastal area is quite congenial to the development of industries.
  + Because of this reason, about 24 per cent of India’s modem industries and 30 per cent of India’s industrial labour is concentrated in Maharashtra-Gujarat region alone.
* **Capital:**
  + Modern industries are capital-intensive and require huge investments. Capitalists are available in urban centres.
  + Big cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, and Chennai are big industrial centres, because the big capitalists live in these cities
* **Additional capacities are being planned** to be installed in all the major manufacturing units.
* **Government Policy:**
  + Government activity in planning the future distribution of industries, for reducing regional disparities, elimination of pollution of air and water and for avoiding their heavy clustering in big cities, has become no less an important locational factor.
  + A **public procurement policy has been proposed** incorporating technology along with common facility centres while the Khadi Mark steps has been launched to promote Micro Small and Medium Enterprises.
* **Banking Facilities:**
  + Establishment of industries involves daily exchange of crores of rupees which is possible through banking facilities only. So the areas with better banking facilities are better suited to the establishment of industries.
* **Insurance:**
  + There is a constant fear of damage to machine and man in industries for which insurance facilities are badly needed.

**Fact:**

The national manufacturing policy suggests raising the share of manufacturing in GDP to 25% in order to create 100 million jobs in the coming decades.

*Topic: Political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.- their forms and effect on the society*

[**1) Analyse the causes of Communism’s slide worldwide and in India. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/24/1-analyse-causes-communisms-slide-worldwide-india/)

[The Hindu](http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/things-the-left-needs-to-do-right/article8638064.ece)

**Reasons why communism lost its sheen:**

* **Capitalism made three major concessions to ward off the communist threat:**
  + Decolonization
  + The institution of democracy based on universal adult suffrage
  + State intervention in demand management to maintain high levels of employment:
    - Kept up aggregate demand and employment in advanced capitalist economies,and thereby facilitated high levels of investment,output growth,and labour productivity growth.
    - High productivity growth inturn led to rapid increases in real wages since employment rates were high and trade unions consequently strong.Such intervention underlay in short what has been called the “Golden Age”of capitalism.
  + **Emergence of US:**
    - It became the unquestioned leader of the capitalist world and a uting of inter imperialist rivalries.
    - In short communism had been superseded because of US rise.
  + **It has lost itself on the way:**
    - Because the premise upon which it was founded no longer held,the premise of an imminent world revolution
    - As this imminence receded ,communism has to reinvent and restructure itself to come to terms with a post Leninist conjuncture in order to remain viable
    - This was difficult enough it was made more difficult by a common but undesirable tendency among revolutionaries to place moral purity above practical politics and deny the non imminence of revolution.
  + **Globalisation:**
    - Communism’s incapacity to deal with a post Leninist conjuncture springs above all from its ambivalence towards globalization.This is true of the European Left in general and exhibited most recently by Syriza in Greece.
    - No matter how objectionable it finds the hegemony of finance capital which characterizes globalization,it cannot contemplate shaking off this hegemony through a delinking from globalization,because it sees any such delinking as a revival of nationalism which it abhors.
    - They too lack any concrete strategy of countering globalization
  + **Ambivalence towards democracy:**
    - Communis’s incapacity to remain viable in post Leninist conjuncture also has roots in an ambivalence it traditionally had towards democracy
    - In any situation of conflict between the proletarian revolution and existing democratic institutions a revolutionary must choose the former ,communism tended to see democratic institutions far stronger in the post war world as being secondary to the revolution that they believed was imminent

**However it is not always the case ,communism still plays role:**

* In countries where communists have shed their ambivalence both towards opposing globalization and towards defending democracy,they have remained a formidable force and India is one such country.
* Even China and Russia are such examples
* The rise of power of communist parties in Euro Zone after the economic crisis .

*Topic: Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.*

[**2) How did Buddhism travel to China and other East Asian countries from India? Write a note on important ancient Buddhist art centres and their forms located in these countries.  (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/24/2-buddhism-travel-china-east-asian-countries-india-write-note-important-ancient-buddhist-art-centres-forms-located-countries/)

[The Hindu](http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/digitising-data-on-stolen-buddhist-relics/article8638070.ece)

**How did Buddhism travel to China and East Asian countries from India?**

* It is not certain when Buddhism reached China, but with **the Silk Road** opened in the second century BC, missionaries and pilgrims began to travel between China, Central Asia and India.
  + The record described that Chang Ch’ien, on his return from Ta-hsia (Ferghana) in the 2nd century BC, heard of a country named Tien-chu (India) and their Buddhist teaching. This is probably the first time a Chinese heard about Buddhism.
* A fully sinicized Buddhist religion and art emerged and spread into Korea, and thence into Japan by the end of the sixth century.
* **Buddhism in Burma**
  + As early as the time of King Ashoka of India, monks were sent to Thaton to spread the Buddha’s teachings. Thaton was a trading centre of southern Burma. Buddhism was widely accepted by the people in Thaton as more Buddhist missionaries arrived from Indian Buddhist centres. Thaton soon became an important centre for Theravada Buddhism.
* **Buddhism in Cambodia**
  + By the end of the fourth century, Indian influence had spread throughout the kingdom of the Cambodians. In the following two centuries, the rulers practised Hinduism but gave some support to the Buddhist communities, which practised mainly Mahayana Buddhism.
  + King Jayavarman VII was a devout Buddhist. Under him Mahayana Buddhism became for a time the dominant religion of the kingdom. He built the new city of Angkor (called Angkor Thom), in the centre of which was a temple called the Bayon
* **Buddhism in Indonesia and the Malay Peninsula:**
  + It is said that late in the fifth century a Buddhist monk from India landed in the kingdom in central Java and converted the queen to Buddism.She then made Mahayana Buddhism as the official religion.

**Buddhist art centres and their forms:**

**China:**

* By then, the number of Chinese translations of Buddhist texts had increased tremendously, The Buddhists were now faced with the problem of how to study this large number of Buddhist texts and how to put their teachings in to practice. As a result, a number of schools of Buddhism arose, with each school concentrating on certain texts for their study and practice.
  + The **Tian-tai School**, for instance, developed a system of teaching and practice based on the Lotus Sutra. It also arranged all the Buddhist texts into graded categories to suit the varying aptitudes of the followers.
  + The **Chan School** emphasised the practice of meditation as the direct way of gaining insight and experiencing Enlightenment in this very life. The Chan school of Buddhism is said to have been introduced to China by Bodhidharma who came from India at the beginning of the sixth century.
  + The **Pure Land School** centres its practice on the recitation of the name of Amitabha Buddha. The practice is based on the sermon, which teaches that people could be reborn in the Western Paradise (Pure Land) of Amitabha Buddha if they recite his name and have sincere faith in him. Once in Pure Land, the Buddhists are said to be able to achieve Enlightenment more easily. Because of the simplicity of its practice, this school became popular especially among the masses throughout China.
  + Central Asian missionary efforts along the Silk Roadwere accompanied by a flux of artistic influences, visible in the development of **Serindian art** from the 2nd through the 11th century in the Tarim Basin, modern Xinjiang. Serindian art often derives from the Greco-Buddhist art of the Gandhara district of what is now Pakistan, combining Indian, Greek and Roman
  + Art centres:
    - The popularization of Buddhism in China has made the country home to one of the richest collections of Buddhist arts in the world.
    - The Mogao Cavesnear Dunhuang
    - the Longmen Grottoesnear Luoyang in Henan province
    - the Dazu Rock Carvingsnear Chongqing municipality are among the most important and renowned Buddhist sculptural sites.
    - The Leshan Giant Buddha, carved out of a hillside in the 8th century during the Tang Dynastyand looking down on the confluence of three rivers, is still the largest stone Buddha statue in the world.

**Japan:**

In modern times, Japan’s most popular schools of Buddhism are Pure Land Buddhism, Nichiren Buddhism, Shingon Buddhism and Zen.

Other famous places for Buddhist pilgrimage in various countries include:

* Afghanistan: the Bamiyan Buddhas.
* Cambodia: Angkor Thom, Silver Pagoda.
* Tibet: Potala Palace, Mount Kailash, Lake Nam-tso.
* Indonesia: Borobudur, Mendut, Sewu.
* Japan: Kyoto, Nara, Shikoku Pilgrimage, Kansai Kannon Pilgrimage

*Topic: Urbanization – problems and remedies*

[**1) “Metropolitan regions in India are being generated by default through economic forces, and not by design through supportive government policies.” Elaborate the statement and examine the consequences of urbanization that is driven by economic forces alone. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/25/1-metropolitan-regions-india-generated-default-economic-forces-not-design-supportive-government-policies-elaborate-statement-examine-consequence/)

[The Indian Express](http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/cities-without-a-core-2817405/)

**Background:**

* As countries develop, urban areas account for an increasing share of the gross national product (GNP). The growth sectors of an economy, particularly manufacturing (including food processing) and services, are generally located in cities where they benefit from agglomeration economies, ample markets for inputs and outputs and readily available labour. These urban agglomerations are also areas where ideas and knowledge are rapidly diffused.
* For economic reasons industrialization takes place in urban areas where the agglomeration of production factors such as labour and infrastructure as well as the output of markets generate economies of scale
* Urbanization has always been closely tied to industrialization as cities developed adjacent to the sources of cheap energy, based first on water, power and then on coal and at sites where rivers, lakes or canals permitted the assembly and dispersal of bulky raw materials and finished products, a transportation pattern later reinforced by the rail roads.

**Consequences :-**

**Positives:-**

* Some benefits of urbanization are economies of scale, better transportation, better opportunities for housing and education, better medical care, increased job opportunities and greater access to goods.
* **Efficiency :**
  + Cities are often more efficient than rural areas. Less effort is needed to supply basic amenities such as fresh water and electricity.
  + Research and recycling programs are possible only in cities.
* **Convenience:**
  + Access to education, health, social services and cultural activities is more readily available to people in cities than in villages.
  + Life in cities is much more comfortable, compared to life in villages.
  + Cities have more advanced communication and transport networks.
* **Concentration of resources** :
  + Since most major human settlements were established near natural resources from ancient times**, lot of resources are available in and around cities.**Facilities to exploit these resources optimally also exist only in cities.
* **Concentration of Educational facilities**:
  + More schools, colleges and universities are established in cities to train and develop human resources.
  + Variety of educational choices are available offering students a wide choice for their future careers.
* **Better Social integration :**
  + People of many castes ,groups and religions live and work together in cities, which creates better understanding and harmony and helps breakdown social and cultural barriers.
* **Economic Improvement:**
  + High-tech industries earn valuable foreign exchange and lot of money for the country.

**Negatives :-**

* Industrialization has resulted in an increase in urban population, which creates further **pressure on urban land**. As a result, there is a dearth of space, and consequently conges­tion and**overcrowding occur.**
* The municipal authorities are now finding it difficult to even provide the **basic amenities** to the migrated and the existing population of the city.
* **Growth of cities:**
  + The result is the haphazard development of cities in all directions.
  + The result is the growth of slums, vices, drug trafficking, prostitution, beggary and robbery.
* **Homelessness** is another disturbing feature of urban life. The housing problem in the city is very acute. Many people who are unable to pay high rents remain shelter less or squatter on public property.
* The **bonds of kinship, neighbourliness and sentiments of living together for generations are absent** among these people due to such diverse origin and backgrounds.
* But in todays urban centres, there is a need for dual-income families. Naturally, the function of child-rearing is then transferred to a secondary institution—the creche or baby-care centre.
* Urbanization, rapid economic liberalization, growing mass political upheaval, violent conflict and**inappropriate and inadequate policy** are the basis of **crime in urban areas**.
* Moreover, **poverty and inequality** caused due to the rising expectations and a sense of moral outrage that some members of the society are growing rich have contributed to higher and growing levels of crime.
* Urbanization can lead to People are drawn to urban areas in the false hope of a better standard of living, better healthcare and job opportunities.
* **Urban poverty has a serious impact on the economic growth** in India. Many people who come to city in search of livelihood end up in poverty. The result is **beggary and prostitution**.
* Urbanization involuntarily leads to **trafficking of women and children**. It is further exacerbated and compounded by the phenomena of poverty, unemployment, increasing urban/rural disparities, gender discrimination and migration.
* However, ethnic violence, terrorism, communal violence, and violence between different castes have become very common nowadays in almost all the cities.
* **Stress**caused due to competition and pressure of work, work and alcoholism have become the norm of the day in these urban centres.

*Topic: Urbanization – problems and remedies*

[**1) A 2016 World Health Organisation report says 16 of the 30 most polluted cities in the world are in India.  The pollution in Indian cities is adversely affecting health of people, especially children. What practical measures should our cities adopt to reduce pollution and its health hazards? Discuss. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/26/1-2016-world-health-organisation-report-says-16-30-polluted-cities-world-india-pollution-indian-cities-adversely-affecting-health-people-especially-childre/)

[Business Standard](http://www.business-standard.com/article/opinion/govindraj-ethiraj-better-cities-not-just-better-air-116052501818_1.html)

**Practical measures needed are:-**

* **Determined efforts needed:**
  + India has to learn from Mexico City example where odd even formula war earlier implemented.Ther any vehicle that did not qualify was banned. **Unlike in India, there were no exemptions for women, children and other sections.** Moreover, if you came from out of town, you were stopped at the entrance to the city.
* **Awareness of impact lacking:**
  + Very few understand how minute particulates are destroying their lungs every day. Where there is awareness, it usually leads to buying air purifiers, which might help in enclosed environments but not outside.
* **Get people off cars, two-wheelers:**
  + Push them towards public transport, even bicycles. So India needs bicycle lanes.
  + International examples:
    - Bogota has an amazing 400 km of private bicycle lanes.
    - In Europe, Munich has 1,200 km of marked bike lanes and 22,000 stands. Close to 20 per cent of the city’s traffic is believed to be on bicycles.
  + **More buses:**
    - But new generation ones. Bogota has 248 brand new hybrid diesel-electric buses. China has more than 100,000 electric buses, 20 per cent of the total number of buses. Shenzen saw the largest deployment of **electric buses**
  + **Move all polluting industries out of the city:**
    - There’s no choice on this matter.
    - Mexico City didn’t just move out the industries but ensured there were better filtration systems introduced into polluting stacks.
  + **Keep expanding the Metro**
  + **Take alternative transport arrangements seriously:**
    - Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) network is running well in cities like Ahmedabad, and to some extent, Bhopal.
  + **Strong demand management measures:**
    - Highly priced parking for cars is one obvious one, or a variation of congestion pricing.
    - Beijing has a lottery system for 20,000 new cars a month. Cities like Singapore have long implemented similar moves.
  + **Fuel management:**
    - Reducing sulphur content in diesel is a critical task. As is the leap towards Euro VI (by 2020) or higher emission standards from the current Euro IV norms.
    - Laudable as they are, they will take time and cannot be implemented by one city or a set of cities alone. BS IV fuels contain 50 parts per million (ppm) of sulphur while Euro VI will contain 10 ppm.
    - Today, India has Euro III norms in most parts of the country and Euro IV in major cities.

*Topic: Urbanization – problems and remedies*

[**1) How does Census differentiate between rural and urban regions? Discuss the challenges faced in governing rural regions that are contiguous to urban areas and that are affected by urbanization process. (200 Words)**](http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/05/27/1-census-differentiate-rural-urban-regions-discuss-challenges-faced-governing-rural-regions-contiguous-urban-areas-affected-urbanization-proce/)

[The Indian Express](http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/india-urbanization-2011-census-report-2820935/)

**Census differentiation:**

* The Census, treats rural or village population as a residual even as it has different categories of “urban”.
* If a settlement is under a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or a notified town area committee, it becomes a **statutory town** and is hence urban.
* Another definition of urban is **linked to demographic characteristics**: If in a population size of 5,000, 75 per cent of the male working population is engaged in non-agricultural pursuits and the population density exceeds 400 people per sq km, this becomes a **Census town**, regardless of whether it is a statutory town or not.
* There is also the matter of **an urban outgrowth**, when a village (or hamlet) is physically contiguous to a town and possesses urban features; it is then treated as an **urban agglomeration**.
* Therefore, anything other than a statutory town, Census town or urban agglomeration is **a village**.
* In that sense, the **village is residual, regardless of its population size**. The population can be 10,000 people or it can also be 100 people.
* **Fact:**
  + As per the 2011 Census, there are 6,40,930 villages in India, of which around 6,00,000 can be regarded as inhabited.

**Challenges :**

* **Definitional problems :**
  + In transitional areas it can be found that one side of a road that is “urban” and an opposite side still “rural”.
  + There is no clarity whether the area comes under urban or village jurisdiction as one will find malls, institutions and hotels and also find a panchayat bhawan.
  + **Village:**
    - the word “village” is used too loosely across a very heterogeneous category.
    - For Census purposes, there is a revenue village but there may be many clusters of habitations/hamlets within the same revenue village.
    - Inside forest areas, there may be non-surveyed villages. Just as there are habitations as sub-categories of villages, there are also gram panchayats as categories higher than villages.
  + **Governance issue:**
    - Who ensures those public goods and services – panchayats, municipalities? Or is the village stuck in the interregnum from panchayat to municipality?these questions are left unanswered.
    - the administrative machinery for urban areas seldom exists for such settlements.
  + **Sanitation and sewage problems:**
    - The sewage systems,solid waste management systems in these areas are not synonymous with the population increase leading to environmental degradation and chaos in the quality of living.
  + Population growth because of migration and rapid urbanization in these areas leads to congestion and new complications related to health might arise as well.
  + **Land problem:-**Huge tracts of productive land can be done away with to pave the way for the developmental projects.