



ACHIEVE-2023

All India Open Mock Test Mains-2023

MODEL ANSWERS GENERAL STUDIES (GS-I & II)

ACHIEVE-01



drishti

641, 1st Floor,
Dr. Mukherjee
Nagar, Delhi

21, Pusa Road,
Karol Bagh,
New Delhi

13/15 Tashkent Marg,
Civil Lines,
Prayagraj

1st & 2nd Floor, No-47/CC,
Burlington Arcade Mall,
Vidhan Sabha Marg, Lucknow

Plot No. 45 & 45A, Harsh
Tower-2, Main Tonk Road,
Vasundhara Colony, Jaipur

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Phone: 011-47532596, 8750187501 :: e-mail: help@groupdrishti.in :: Website: www.drishtiIAS.com

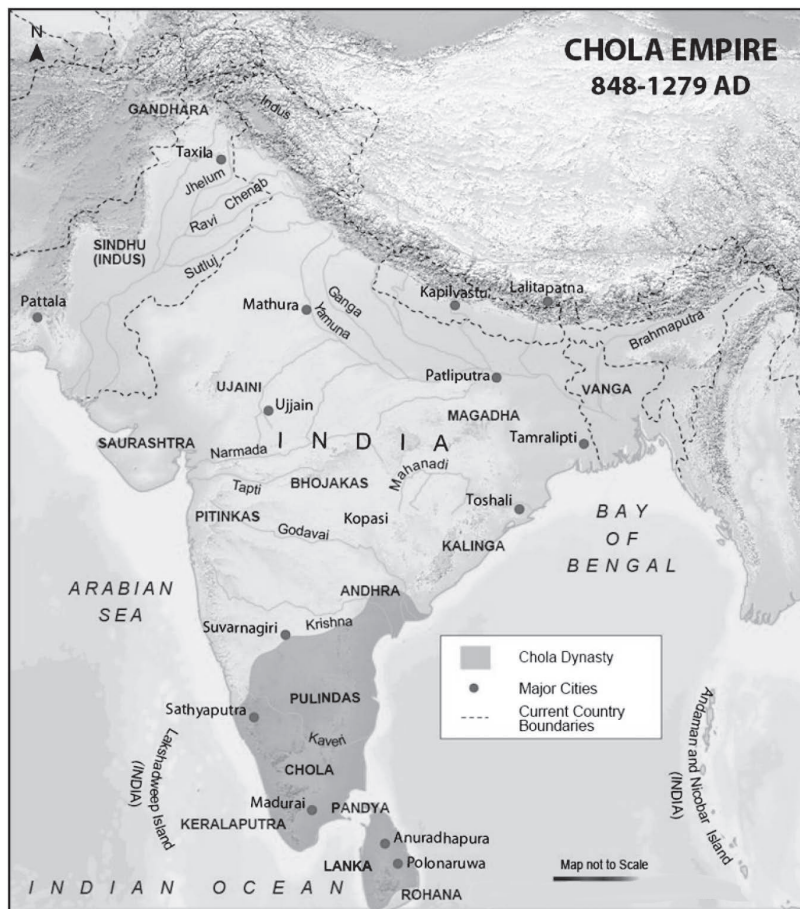
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1. Analyse the socio-political factors that led to the rise of the Chola dynasty. How did the Cholas consolidate and expand their power in the Southern India? (150 Words) 10

Ans: The Cholas dynasty (9th and 13th century) was prominent and influential dynasty in ancient South India with its heartland center around the region known as Tamil Nadu with several factors contributing to its expansion.

Socio-Political Factors Leading to the Rise of the Chola Dynasty:

- **Cultural and Religious Patronage:** Chola rulers like Rajaraja Chola (985 to 1014 CE) and Rajendra Chola (1014 to 1044 CE) were patrons of art, literature, and temple architecture.
 - This patronage fostered a sense of loyalty among their subjects and solidified their rule by aligning themselves with influential religious institutions.
- **Trade and Maritime Prowess:** The Cholas capitalised on their access to the Bay of Bengal, becoming maritime trade pioneers.
 - Their trade links extended to Southeast Asian kingdoms like Srivijaya and the Chinese empire. This not only enriched their coffers but also facilitated cultural exchanges that added to their prestige.
- **Military and Administrative Innovation:** The Cholas' military advancements, such as a standing army and naval force, bolstered their ability to protect and expand their territories.
 - Efficient administrative systems, including local governance through assemblies (sabhas), contributed to stability.
- **Geographical Advantage:** The Chola Dynasty was located in the fertile region of the Kaveri River basin, which provided ample opportunities for agriculture, trade, and commerce.





Consolidation and Expansion of Chola Power in the Southern India:

- **Military Conquests:** The Chola rulers, particularly Rajaraja Chola and Rajendra Chola, undertook successful military campaigns to expand their territorial control.
 - They defeated the Pandya and Chera kingdoms and established their dominance over key regions in South India.
- **Diplomatic Alliances:** The Cholas formed strategic alliances with neighbouring kingdoms to maintain stability and security.
 - These alliances allowed them to focus their military efforts on areas outside their immediate borders.
- **Administrative Centralization:** The Cholas implemented a well-organised administrative system that ensured efficient governance and revenue collection.
 - This centralization of power helped them maintain control over their vast empire, including the newly acquired Deccan territories.
- **Infrastructure Development:** The Cholas invested heavily in infrastructure, including building roads, ports, and irrigation systems.
 - This not only facilitated efficient administration but also boosted trade and economic activities, contributing to their power expansion.
- **Naval Dominance:** The Cholas' naval prowess allowed them to control maritime trade routes, which in turn bolstered their economic strength and political influence in the Deccan and beyond.

Conclusion:

The Cholas' enduring legacy stands as a testament to their exceptional ability to harness a wide array of factors, ultimately propelling them to become one of the most prominent and impactful dynasties in South Indian history. Recently, the use of 'Sengol' in the new Parliament also signifies Chola's importance in Indian History.

2. **Examine the role of Mahatma Gandhi in shaping the course of the Indian National Movement. Analyse his strategic initiatives, methods of protest and ideological contributions in fostering a sense of unity and mobilisation among diverse sections of Indian society. (150 Words) 10**

Ans: Mahatma Gandhi, after his entry to India in 1915 played a pivotal role in shaping the course of the Indian National Movement against British colonial rule. His experience from South Africa and a positive attitude had a profound impact across the diverse society of India.

- **Strategic Initiatives:**
 - **Champan Satyagraha (1918):** Also known as the Indigo Revolt, it was Gandhi's first active involvement in a civil disobedience movement in India, where he stood against the exploitative practices of British landlords.
 - His success cemented his position on the national stage.
 - **Khilafat Movement (1919-1924):** Gandhi supported this movement, further it with non-cooperation to protest the mistreatment of the Caliph in Turkey by the British after WW-I.
 - This strategic move facilitated Hindu-Muslim unity.
 - **Non-cooperation Movement (1920-1922):** Gandhi's strategic initiative of passive resistance to authority involved a comprehensive boycott of British goods and services.
 - This included schools, courts, and other British products, leading to a significant economic impact.



● **Methods of Protest:**

- **Non-violence and satyagraha:** As opposed to revolutionary methods, Gandhi advocated for non-violent resistance or satyagraha. He believed that a peaceful and truthful protest had great strength, explaining his success in mobilising and unifying Indians across the country regardless of caste and religion.
- **Civil Disobedience:** Non-compliance to the unjust British laws was a core part of Gandhi's method of protest. He asserted the right of a citizen to civil disobedience when the state fails to represent the people's will.
- **Promotion of Khadi:** Gandhi promoted the spinning of khadi as a sign of self-reliance and dignity of labour. This also served as a form of peaceful protest against British manufactured goods.

● **Ideological Contributions:**

- **Hindu-Muslim Unity:** Gandhi strongly advocated for Hindu-Muslim unity. His support for the Khilafat Movement significantly bridged communal gaps.
- **Abolition of Untouchability and Caste Discrimination:** His work for the Harijans or the 'children of God' (as he called those considered untouchables) unified the society by inspiring respect for every individual irrespective of caste.
- **Women's Participation:** Gandhi believed that women were vital for the success of the freedom movement. He worked towards encouraging their participation, thereby mobilising a segment of society that was largely overlooked in political movements.
- **Swaraj or Self-Rule:** Gandhi popularised the concept of Swaraj, referring not just to political independence but also to self-reliance and self-governance. In a society with a diversity of languages, religions, and cultures, the idea of Swaraj unified Indians around a common aim.
- **Swadeshi and Boycott of Foreign Goods:** The swadeshi movement promoted the use of domestic goods and the boycott of foreign-made products, particularly British ones, which not only affected the colonial economy but also promoted unity, self-reliance, and small-scale industries.

Mahatma Gandhi's role in the Indian National Movement of 1918-1929 reflected his innovative strategies, non-violent protest methods, and strong ideologies that galvanised the people across different sections of the society, driving unity and mobilisation towards achieving independence.

3. Discuss the nature and circumstances of the Communal Award and the reactions of various groups and parties towards it. (150 Words) 10

Ans: The 1932 Communal Award was a significant political development during India's pre-independence era. It proposed separate electorates and reserved seats in legislatures to address diverse religious and social groups. However, this move elicited mixed reactions from political parties and communities, shaping the discourse around India's path to independence.

Nature and Circumstances of the Communal Award:

- The Communal Award arose from the deliberations of the Round Table Conferences held in London between 1930 and 1932.
- In an effort to reform India's constitution, British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald introduced the Communal Award.
- It sought to extend the concept of separate electorates beyond Muslims, now encompassing Sikhs, Christians, Anglo-Indians, and Dalits.
- The goal was to ensure political representation for distinct religious and social communities.



Reactions of Various Groups and Parties:

Indian National Congress:

- The Communal Award faced strong opposition from the Indian National Congress, led by Mahatma Gandhi.
 - Gandhi perceived it as a divisive measure that would deepen societal divides.
 - He advocated for "one man, one vote," fearing that the award would perpetuate communalism and hinder the unity needed for India's struggle for independence.

Dalit Leaders:

- For leaders like Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Communal Award was a welcome step.
 - It acknowledged Dalits as a distinct political entity, providing reserved seats and representation for them.
 - Ambedkar believed this was an opportunity to address the socio-economic challenges faced by Dalits and empower them to engage in the political process.

Muslim League:

- Initially supporting the Communal Award for its inclusion of separate electorates for Muslims, the Muslim League's stance shifted after negotiations between Gandhi and Jinnah.
 - The resulting "Poona Pact" retained separate electorates for Muslims but also introduced reserved seats for Muslims and other minorities within joint electorates.
 - This demonstrated Jinnah's willingness to find compromises.

Sikh and Hindu Leaders:

- Sikh leaders generally endorsed the Communal Award as it recognized their community and secured separate representation.
- Among Hindu leaders, opinions varied. Some appreciated the move towards diverse political representation, while others shared Gandhi's concerns about communal divisions.

The Communal Award was a crucial moment in India's independence journey. It highlighted the challenge of accommodating diverse groups in a unified political framework. It sparked debates about communal identities' role in shaping the nation's politics. The reactions from different parties and communities showed the complexities of Indian society and politics during this phase.

4. Discuss the fusion of indigenous and foreign artistic influences in the development of Indo-Islamic architecture and its impact on the cultural landscape of India during the medieval period.


(150 Words) 10

Ans: The development of Indo-Islamic architecture during the medieval period in India was a result of a fascinating fusion of indigenous and foreign artistic influences, particularly the amalgamation of Islamic architectural elements with pre-existing Indian styles. This fusion not only transformed the architectural landscape of India but also had a profound impact on its cultural and artistic heritage.

Elements of Fusion:

Indo-Islamic architecture drew upon several elements from both Islamic and Indian architectural traditions:

- **Islamic Elements:** The use of arches, domes, minarets, and geometric patterns are key features borrowed from Islamic architecture. The pointed arch, in particular, became a hallmark of this fusion.

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- **Indian Elements:** Indigenous elements like bracketed eaves, intricate carvings, courtyards and axial alignment of structures were retained from Indian architecture. These elements were integrated into the Islamic framework.

The **Qutub Complex in Delhi** is a prime example of the fusion of indigenous and foreign architectural influences. The complex includes the **Qutub Minar, Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque, Alai Darwaza**, and other structures. The Qutub Minar itself is an Indo-Islamic masterpiece, where Islamic architectural elements such as the use of red sandstone, decorative Arabic inscriptions, and the introduction of the Persian architectural tradition merged with Indian elements like **balconies, lotus motifs** and intricate carvings.

Cultural Impact:

The fusion of indigenous and foreign influences in Indo-Islamic architecture had a profound impact on the cultural landscape of India:

- **Syncretic Identity:** Indo-Islamic architecture reflected the syncretic nature of Indian society, where different cultures and traditions coexisted and contributed to a unique composite identity.
- **Cultural Exchange:** The interaction between Islamic and Indian artisans, architects, and scholars fostered a rich exchange of ideas, leading to the evolution of a distinct architectural style that catered to both religious and cultural needs.
- **Religious Coexistence:** Many Indo-Islamic structures, such as mosques and tombs, were built alongside pre-existing temples and other religious sites, showcasing a peaceful coexistence of different faiths and architectural traditions.
- **Aesthetic Diversity:** The fusion of styles resulted in a diverse range of architectural forms, each with its own aesthetic appeal. This diversity is evident in the various regional schools of Indo-Islamic architecture, such as the Deccani, Mughal, and Bengal schools.

Legacy:

The legacy of Indo-Islamic architecture continues to shape India's architectural and cultural landscape. Many iconic structures, such as the Taj Mahal, Humayun's Tomb, and Jama Masjid, are prime examples of this fusion.

These structures not only exemplify the artistic achievements of the time but also serve as enduring symbols of India's multicultural heritage.

The fusion of indigenous and foreign artistic influences in Indo-Islamic architecture during the medieval period exemplifies the ability of different cultures to come together, adapt, and create something new and extraordinary. This fusion not only enriched India's architectural heritage but also contributed to its cultural diversity and pluralism.

- 5. In what ways did the resources taken from Bengal serve as inputs for the British Industrial Revolution? Analyse. (150 Words) 10**

Ans: In the 18th and 19th centuries the control of British East India company over Bengal and its resources contributed to the growth of industries in Britain.

Bengal's Resource Wealth and British Exploitation:

- Bengal was renowned for its abundance of resources, including textiles, agricultural products, minerals, and raw materials.
 - The British, through imperial policies, established control over these resources, aiming to support their growing industries.



Cotton Textiles and Manchester School of Thought:

- Bengal was a prominent center for cotton textiles, with a thriving weaving industry.
 - The British East India Company's plunder of Bengal's textiles served as a vital stimulus for the British Industrial Revolution.
 - Eric Hobsbawm notes that the influx of Indian textiles to Britain disrupted the domestic textile industry and motivated technological innovations to compete.

Economic Drain:

- Dadabhai Naoroji's "Drain Theory" highlighted the economic drain of resources from India to Britain.
 - This theory suggests that the wealth extracted from Bengal was utilized to finance the Industrial Revolution.
 - This perspective resonates with historians like Rajat Kanta Ray, who emphasize how this economic drain contributed to British industrial growth.

Raw Materials and Metallurgical Innovations:

- Bengal's mineral resources played a crucial role in the development of metallurgical industries in Britain.
 - Iron ore and coal extracted from Bengal played a vital role in British Industrial Revolution.

Agriculture and Agricultural Revolution:

- The agricultural resources of Bengal, including indigo and opium, were exploited for British trade interests.
 - These products became part of the global trade network, providing revenue for industrial investment.
 - Bengal's agricultural output influenced the Agricultural Revolution, enabling increased food production to sustain urban labor forces.

The resources extracted from Bengal played a significant role in the British Industrial Revolution by providing essential inputs for various industries. Eric Hobsbawm and Dadabhai Naoroji offer insights into the complex relationship between Bengal's resources and the British Industrial Revolution. This connection highlights the intricate interplay between colonial exploitation, global trade dynamics, and industrial advancements during this pivotal era.

- 6. India can establish itself as a leader of the global south and effectively promote the interests of developing nations through enhanced south-south cooperation. Examine. (150 Words) 10**

Ans: India has actively engaged with multilateral forums like the UN, G-20, BRICS etc. to advocate the concerns and priorities of the Global South. India's presidency of the G-20 in 2023 provides a platform for the country to demonstrate its leadership, influence, and commitment to the concerns of the World and the Global South.

India as a leader of the Global South:

- **Enhancing South-South Cooperation:** By facilitating dialogue, promoting knowledge-sharing, and encouraging partnerships, India can strengthen the collective voice of the Global South and highlight its potential as a force for positive change in the international arena. Example: BRICS and Expansion of BRICS
- **Conflict Resolution:**
 - The G-20 presidency also offers India an opportunity to play a role as a global peacemaker, particularly on issues like the Russia-Ukraine war and rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific region.
 - India's consistent and objective approach, coupled with its positive relations with conflicting parties and their supporters, positions it as a credible mediator to help resolve conflicts.
- **Capitalising on its Credibility:** Given the current lack of credibility of the United Nations and the involvement of major powers taking sides in conflicts like the proxy war in Ukraine, India stands out as a country that has maintained impartiality and objectivity. India's credibility enables it to work behind the scenes to facilitate an end to the war in Ukraine.



- **Promoting Multilateralism:**

- India can reaffirm its commitment to multilateralism and advocate for a more inclusive global governance system.
- By emphasising the importance of international institutions and collective decision-making, India can position itself as a leader that promotes the interests and aspirations of the Global South within the G20 and beyond.

- **Addressing the Digital Divide:** India's world-class digital infrastructure positions it as a leader capable of bridging the digital divide by sharing technology with other countries, especially developing countries. Example: Helping Developing countries with UPI architecture.

- **Addressing Developmental Issues:**

- India can prioritise developmental issues crucial to the Global South, such as poverty alleviation, sustainable development, and infrastructure development.
- By placing these issues at the forefront of the G20 agenda, India can demonstrate its commitment to the concerns of developing countries.

- **Advocating for Inclusive Growth:** India can promote policies and initiatives that foster inclusive growth like supporting equitable trade practices, promoting social welfare programs, and addressing income inequality.

By prioritizing developmental issues, advocating for inclusive growth, promoting South-South cooperation, supporting multilateralism, and showcasing its successes, India can project itself as a leader that understands and addresses the needs of the Global South.

7. How does India manage the equilibrium between its strategic interests and developmental assistance while engaging with countries in the Pacific Islands? Discuss. (150 Words) 10

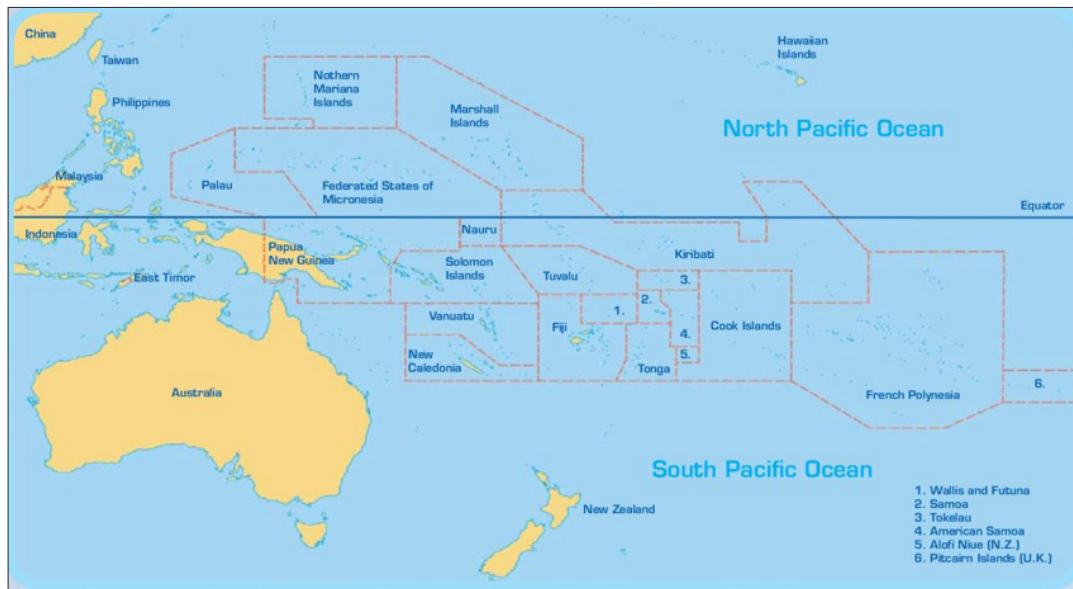
Ans: India's relations with the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) have evolved from historical and cultural ties to strategic and developmental partnerships. India established the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) in 2014 as a part of India's Act East Policy and has held three summits with the Pacific Island countries since then, the latest one being in Papua New Guinea.

India considers the Pacific Island countries "large ocean countries and not small island states" and supports a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

Major factors affect India's strategic interests and development assistance in the Pacific region:

- **Geography:** India is located at the centre of the Indian Ocean, which connects it to the Pacific Ocean through various maritime routes and chokepoints.
 - India also has historical and cultural ties with many island nations in the Pacific, such as Fiji, Kiribati and Vanuatu which are part of its extended neighbourhood.
- **Security:** India faces multiple security challenges in the Indo-Pacific, ranging from
 - traditional threats such as piracy, terrorism, a rising and assertive China and maritime disputes
 - non-traditional threats such as climate change, natural disasters, and pandemics.
- **Economy:** India's need for trade, investment, energy, connectivity, and development drives its economic interests in the Indo-Pacific region.
 - India is one of the largest trading partners in the region, with a total trade volume of over \$200 billion in 2019–20.

- India is also a major source of remittances from its diaspora in countries such as Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore.
- India seeks to diversify its energy sources and routes by tapping into the hydrocarbon potential of the Indian Ocean and exploring renewable energy options in the Pacific islands.



How India balances its interests and assistance in the region:

- India views the Pacific region as an integral part of the Indo-Pacific, a concept that emphasises the interconnectedness and interdependence of the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
 - India has been participating in the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) since 2014, a platform that brings together leaders and officials from India and 14 PICs to discuss various issues of mutual interest and cooperation.
- India's development assistance to the PICs covers healthcare, renewable energy, information technology, cybersecurity, disaster management, education, culture and capacity building.
 - Some of the key initiatives announced by the PM at the FIPIC summit include establishing a super-speciality cardiology hospital in Fiji, providing sea ambulances and dialysis units to all PICs, etc
 - India also aims to enhance its connectivity with the region through initiatives such as the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC), the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), and the Sagarmala project.
 - India provides security assistance to smaller island states in the Pacific through capacity-building, training, joint patrols, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations..
- India also seeks to enhance its strategic presence and partnerships in the Pacific region, especially in the context of the growing influence and assertiveness of China. India supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the PICs and opposes any unilateral or coercive actions that undermine their interests.
- India's diplomatic engagement with the Indo-Pacific is based on its vision of a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based region that respects all nations' sovereignty and territorial integrity.
 - India participates actively in various regional forums such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the East Asia Summit (EAS), etc.

- India also maintains close bilateral relations with key countries in the region, such as Australia, France, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, and Vietnam.

India and Pacific Ocean nations should cooperate more closely on issues such as maritime security, climate change, trade, and development. India can play a leading role in the Indo-Pacific region by enhancing its diplomatic, economic, and military engagement with its partners. Pacific Ocean nations can benefit from India's support in addressing their challenges and aspirations. A more inclusive and balanced approach to regional cooperation would foster peace, stability, and prosperity for all.

8. Although the Parliament has the power to amend the Constitution. However, this right is not absolute but limited within defined limits. Discuss the main aspects of the constitution amending powers of the Parliament. Throw light on the limitations that hinder the ability of the Parliament to amend the Constitution. (150 Words) 10

Ans: The constitutional amendment powers of the Parliament in India are enshrined in Article 368 of the Constitution. These powers grant the Parliament the authority to modify the Constitution in order to address changing needs, evolving circumstances and emerging challenges.

Key aspects of the constitutional amendment powers of the Parliament:

● **Initiation and Procedure:**

- The Parliament can initiate the process of amending the Constitution by introducing an amendment bill in either the Lok Sabha (House of the People) or the Rajya Sabha (Council of States).
- The bill must be passed by a special majority, which requires a majority of the total membership of that House and a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting.

● **Extent of Amendments:**

- The Parliament's amendment powers extend to all parts of the Constitution, including fundamental rights, directive principles of state policy, and various other provisions.
- This enables the Parliament to adapt the Constitution to the evolving needs of the nation and to rectify any shortcomings.

● **Types of Amendments:**

- The Constitution distinguishes between two types of amendments: those that require a special majority and those that require a special majority along with the ratification of half of the states' legislatures.
- Provisions related to fundamental rights, directive principles, and other crucial aspects can be amended by the Parliament through a special majority.

Limitations:

● **Basic Structure Doctrine:**

- The most significant limitation is the "Basic Structure" doctrine, established by the Supreme Court in the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973).
- This doctrine holds that certain fundamental features of the Constitution, such as democracy, secularism, federalism, and the rule of law, constitute its basic structure and cannot be altered or destroyed by the Parliament's amendments. This ensures the continuity of the Constitution's essential values.

● **Federal Nature of the Constitution:**

- Amendments that affect the federal structure of the Constitution require not only a special majority in Parliament but also the ratification of at least half of the states' legislatures. This limitation safeguards the balance of power between the central and state governments.



- **Judicial Review:**

- The judiciary plays a vital role in interpreting and safeguarding the Constitution's provisions.
- The courts have the authority to review the validity of constitutional amendments and strike down those that violate the Constitution's basic structure or other provisions.

- **Public Participation and Debate:**

- The Constitution mandates that amendments must go through a rigorous legislative process, allowing for public debate and discussion. This ensures that amendments are thoroughly examined and debated before being passed.

These limitations collectively serve to safeguard the Constitution's integrity, ensure its core values are preserved, and prevent arbitrary changes that could undermine the democratic and federal structure of the country. They maintain a delicate balance between the need for flexibility and the imperative to protect the Constitution's foundational principles.

9. Vacations in the judiciary are a colonial legacy. Do you think that it is still necessary? Justify your stand in the context of huge pendency of cases in India. (150 Words) 10

Ans: The practice of judicial vacations in India is a colonial legacy. It is believed that the British judges who came to India took vacations during the hot summer months, and this practice has been continued by the Indian judiciary ever since.

Arguments in favour of judicial vacations:

- Judges need time to rest and recharge, just like any other worker.
- Vacations also allow judges to attend conferences and workshops to keep up with the latest developments in the law.
- Vacations can help to improve the quality of justice, as judges who are well-rested and refreshed are more likely to make sound decisions.
- While the working days of the Apex Court in India is 190 days, it is only 97 days in Australia and 79 days in the USA.

However, given the huge pendency of cases in India, there is a need for reform in the practice of judicial vacations. As of December 2022, there were over 50 million cases pending in Indian courts, and this number is only increasing. Every day that a court is closed is a day that justice is delayed and this is especially true for litigants who are unable to afford to hire a lawyer.

The inconvenience faced by litigants during court vacations is also a major concern. Many litigants have to travel long distances to attend court hearings, and they may not be able to afford to take time off from work. This can lead to financial hardship and emotional distress.

There is also a view that, the huge pendency of cases and the inconvenience faced by litigants during court vacations are strong arguments against the continued practice of judicial vacations. The judiciary should review this practice and consider reforms that would allow courts to remain open year-round.

Possible reforms:

- Reducing the number of vacation days.
- Allowing judges to take vacations at different times, so that at least some courts are always open.
- Establishing a system of vacation benches to hear urgent cases during vacations.
- Creating a more efficient system for managing the caseload, so that cases do not have to wait for long periods of time to be heard.

These are just a few of the possible reforms that could be made. The specific reforms that are implemented will depend on a number of factors, including the availability of resources and the willingness of the judiciary to change. However, it is clear that some changes need to be made to the system of judicial vacations in order to address the huge pendency of cases and the inconvenience faced by litigants.

10. What are the challenges faced by urban local bodies in India? Suggest measures to strengthen urban local bodies in India. (150 Words) 10

Ans: Urban local bodies (ULBs) play a critical role in managing India's rapidly growing urban areas.

They were provided constitutional status through 74th constitutional amendment act 1992.

However, these bodies face several challenges that limit their ability to provide essential services and promote sustainable urban development.

Challenges/Issues:

- **Financial condition:** The acute scarcity of finance. City municipalities do not collect enough taxes. The Economic Survey of 2018 pointed out municipalities do not realise the full potential of property tax.
- **Excessive State Control:** This proves to be more of a curse than a boon, because, instead of providing guidance and support through the control mechanism, the control turns out to be negative, restricting the functioning of these bodies.
- **Irregular Elections:** Elections to urban bodies have suffered constant postponement for indefinite lengths of time. In some States, elections to urban local bodies have not been held for years, defeating the goal of decentralized governance.
- **Poor governance:** The largest reason for the poor condition of India's cities is the failure of municipal governance. There is a lack of planning and governance at the urban local body level.
- **Lack of management capacity:** Indian municipalities do not have the management capacity to either plan economic activity or execute it. The system of recruitment fails to bring in the best men. Several vacancies are not filled for years and transfers are effected at the free will of the senior bureaucrats and the government.
- **Corruption:** In these bodies corruption, favouritism and nepotism are rampant. In the case of most of the bodies, the state government is empowered to take disciplinary action and the urban body has very little control over its personnel.
- **Urban planning:** Urban planning is done at the state government level and municipalities have little or no role in it. There is no direct responsibility for the consequences of planning as long as the municipality completes the plan. Poor planning, poor accountability, and poor governance have led to disasters.
- **Lack of coordination:** Poor coordination among centre, state, and various departments at local level lead to poor implementation of urban policies. Inability to coordinate leads to administrative inefficiency and thus poor urban governance.

Measures to strengthen urban local bodies in India:

- **Greater autonomy:** India needs to follow a devolved model that empowers urban local bodies. Municipalities should be more autonomous in their functioning, so that they can deliver quality service.
- **Governance Reforms:** The Government may consider the adoption of a common categorisation of urban bodies across the country so as to assist a systematic planning process and devolution of funds. All areas having population more than 10 lakh should be defined metropolitan areas.
- **Timely elections and recruitment:** For strengthening ULBs, a minimum level of staffing should be provided in metropolitan areas. Elections to ULBs should not be, generally, delayed beyond six months.

- **Encouraging public-private partnership:** Successful PPP programs should be formulated at both state and city levels to fund city development. Role of the state should be to create an enabling environment with an aim to expand and deepen private sector investments in infrastructure.
- **Planning:** Government needs to coordinate at various levels with regard to implementation of various programmes. The urban local bodies should prioritise the development programmes. Any mega project envisaged needs to be developed taking into account the views of all the stakeholders.
- **Holistic approach:** It is important to integrate various urban development and related programs at local, state and national levels to develop sustainable city or metropolitan regions. Urban institutions should be strengthened and roles of different organisations should be fixed.

Urban local governments maintain and develop urban areas, ensuring infrastructure and services for citizens. In many Indian cities, quality of life is poor, so the government should reform local governance.

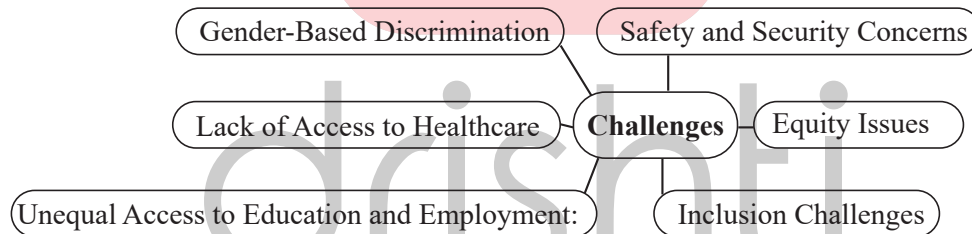
11. Discuss the challenges faced by women in urban areas in India. How can urban planning and policies be reimagined to address these issues and ensure the dignity of every individual? Discuss.

(250 Words) 15

Ans: India's urban population is about 35 percent, by 2050, it is projected to be around 60 percent, this rising urban population is increasing pressure on urban cities causing tension, and one such issue is women denied their Right to city.

The increasing urbanization in India has led to a rise in the urban population, posing challenges related to women's safety, equity, and inclusion in cities. Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach that goes beyond technological solutions.

Challenges Faced by Women in Urban Areas:



- **Safety and Security Concerns:** Women are often subjected to harassment, assault, and violence in public spaces, rising violence against women, lack of safe travel options, and fear of public spaces making them feel unsafe and insecure, hinder women's mobility and access to the city.
- **Equity Issues:** Unequal burden of care work limits women's economic participation and personal growth. Limit their ability to participate in other activities or pursue their own goals.
 - **2021 Oxfam Report** showed à Indian Women and Girls put in 3.26 billion hours of unpaid care work daily.
- **Inclusion Challenges:** Urban planning often fails to account for diverse needs, leading to exclusion of women from decision-making and public spaces.
- **Unequal Access to Education and Employment:** Women often face discrimination in education and employment opportunities, leading to lower-paying jobs and limited career growth.
- **Lack of Access to Healthcare:** Women may face challenges accessing healthcare due to financial constraints or lack of medical facilities in their area.
- **Gender-Based Discrimination:** Women face gender-based discrimination in various aspects of life, including housing, transportation, and access to public services.

Facts related to Women's Safety in Urban Cities:

- 2017 World Bank Study in Delhi showed that women were willing to travel for 27 minutes more daily to take a route that was perceived to be safer
- 2019 Ola Study revealed that only 9% of women from 11 cities felt it was safe to use public transport.
- Women's employment in India is currently under 20 % compared to over 70 % for men.

Reimagining Urban Planning and Policies:

- **Gender-Inclusive Urban Design:** Develop public spaces that cater to the diverse needs of women, men, and people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.
- **Safe Transportation:** Create women-friendly transport services, establish women-only transportation options, and ensure well-lit and secure routes.
- **Responsive Infrastructure:** Design urban infrastructure to respond to gender-based violence, including the establishment of helplines and safety buttons.
- **Affordable Childcare and eldercare:** Provide accessible and affordable childcare facilities to enable women to participate in the workforce.
- **Flexibility in Work Arrangements:** Implement flexible work arrangements to balance work and family responsibilities.
- **Encourage women's leadership:** This could be done by providing training and mentoring programs for women, or by reserving seats for women on boards and commissions.
- **Challenge gender stereotypes:** This could be done through education and awareness campaigns, or by changing the way that women are portrayed in the media.

Examples of Initiatives:

- **Women-Only Transport:** Initiatives like pink buses and women-only metro compartments in cities like Delhi promote women's safety during travel
- **Helplines and Apps:** Emergency helplines and safety apps like 'Himmat' in Delhi provide quick assistance to women facing threats.
- **Women-Centric Parks:** Creation of women-centric parks and public spaces, like "Pink Park" in Bhopal, encourages women's recreational activities.

To ensure women's dignity and inclusion in urban areas, a holistic approach involving gender-sensitive urban planning, technological interventions, and social infrastructure enhancements is crucial. Creating cities that are safe, equitable, and inclusive for all individuals, regardless of gender, will contribute to a more prosperous and harmonious urban landscape.

12. Discuss the socio-economic challenges and human rights implications of manual scavenging in India and analyse the measures taken by the government to eradicate this degrading practice.

(250 Words) 15

Ans: Manual scavenging, a practice rooted in India's history, involves the manual cleaning of human excreta and waste. Despite legal prohibitions and socio-economic advancements, this degrading practice continues to persist, perpetuating various socio-economic challenges and violating fundamental human rights.

Socio-Economic Challenges:

- **Caste-based Discrimination:**
 - It predominantly affects marginalized communities, particularly Dalits and lower castes. This practice reinforces deeply ingrained social hierarchies and caste-based discrimination. Workers engaged in manual scavenging face social ostracization, depriving them of equal opportunities and a dignified life.



- **Health Hazards:**

- Manual scavengers are exposed to hazardous substances and pathogens present in sewage and waste. This exposure poses severe health risks, leading to diseases, infections, and long-term health complications. Lack of proper protective gear and inadequate safety measures exacerbate these risks.

- **Degrading Working Conditions:**

- Manual scavengers often work in unsanitary and perilous environments. They are forced to manually clean human waste, often with their bare hands. The absence of safety equipment, proper training, and hygienic working conditions compounds the degrading nature of their work.

Human Rights Implications:

- **Right to Dignity:** It infringes upon the fundamental right to live with dignity. Workers engaged in this practice are subjected to inhumane and degrading treatment, robbing them of their self-respect and fundamental human dignity.
- **Right to Equality:** It perpetuates caste-based discrimination, violating the right to equality enshrined in the Constitution. Members of affected communities face limited access to education, employment, and other socio-economic opportunities, thereby entrenching systemic inequality.

Government Measures to Eradicate Manual Scavenging:

- **Legislative Actions:**

- The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, criminalizes manual scavenging. It mandates the identification, rehabilitation, and provision of alternative livelihoods for affected workers.

- **Financial Support:**

- Initiatives like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan allocate resources for sanitation improvements and the mechanization of cleaning processes. Direct financial assistance and skill development programs are offered to empower affected communities.

- **Awareness and Sensitization:**

- Public awareness campaigns are conducted to sensitize society about the dignity and rights of manual scavengers. These efforts aim to shift societal attitudes and foster inclusivity.

- **Mechanization of Cleaning Processes:**

- The promotion of technology and machinery in sanitation work aims to replace manual cleaning, enhancing efficiency and reducing health hazards.

Challenges in Eradication:

- **Social Attitudes:**

- Deep-seated social stigmas and caste biases pose significant challenges in eradicating manual scavenging entirely. Changing societal attitudes requires a comprehensive and sustained effort.

- **Lack of Data and Monitoring:**

- Effective implementation of eradication efforts necessitates accurate data collection and monitoring mechanisms. Lack of comprehensive data can hinder progress assessment and targeted interventions.

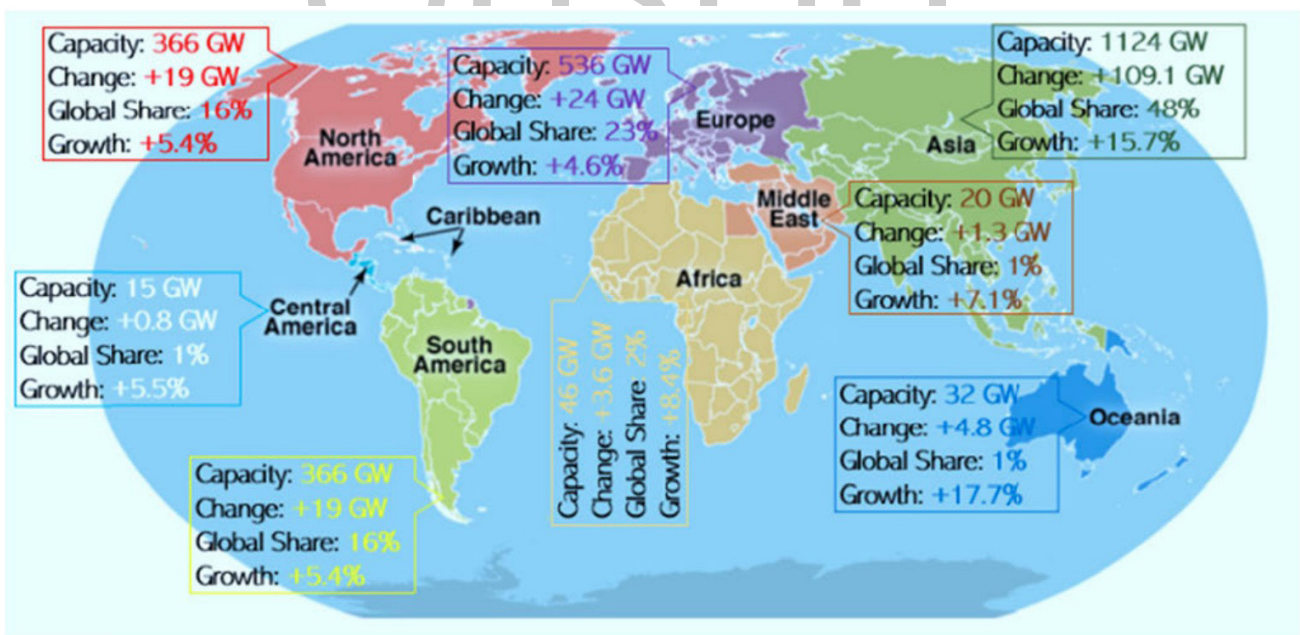
Eradicating manual scavenging is not only a legal imperative but a moral obligation. It requires collaborative efforts from the government, civil society, and affected communities. By addressing socio-economic challenges, upholding human rights, and implementing comprehensive measures, India can work towards creating a society that respects the dignity and equality of all its citizens, irrespective of their caste or occupation.

13. Analyse the spatial distribution of renewable energy resources across different regions of the world and their potential to reshape energy economies. (250 Words) 15

Ans: Renewable energy resources have gained increasing attention due to their environmental benefits and potential to transform global energy systems. The distribution of these resources across different regions of the world significantly influences the energy landscape and has the capacity to reshape economies.

Spatial Distribution of Renewable Energy Resources:

- **Solar Energy:**
 - Solar energy potential is abundant in regions with high insolation, such as deserts and tropical areas.
 - Countries like India, Australia and parts of the Middle East have extensive solar resources. The equatorial belt witnesses consistent and intense sunlight, making it a prime location for solar power generation.
- **Wind Energy:**
 - Wind energy is prevalent in coastal areas, open plains, and mountain passes. Regions like Northern Europe, the United States, and China possess significant wind energy potential due to consistent wind patterns. Offshore wind farms are gaining prominence in coastal regions.
- **Hydropower:**
 - Hydropower potential is determined by topography and water availability.
 - Countries with mountainous terrain and abundant water bodies, such as Norway, Brazil, and Canada, have substantial hydropower resources.
- **Biomass and Geothermal Energy:**
 - Biomass resources are concentrated in agricultural regions and forests, while geothermal energy potential is higher in tectonically active areas like the Pacific Ring of Fire.
 - Countries like Iceland and Indonesia tap into their geothermal potential.





Reshaping Energy Economies:

- **Reduced Dependency on Fossil Fuels:**

- Access to abundant renewable resources enables countries to decrease their reliance on fossil fuels. This transition enhances energy security, mitigates price volatility, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Economic Diversification:**

- Regions endowed with renewable energy resources can diversify their economies by investing in clean energy technologies. This leads to job creation, local industries, and export opportunities related to renewable energy.

- **Energy Independence:**

- Countries with ample renewable energy resources can reduce their dependence on energy imports. This contributes to greater energy self-sufficiency and reduces vulnerability to global energy market fluctuations.

- **Global Climate Goals:**

- Utilizing renewable energy contributes to achieving international climate targets, such as those outlined in the Paris Agreement. Regions adopting clean energy play a pivotal role in reducing global carbon emissions.

- **Technological Innovation and Investment:**

- Developing renewable energy infrastructure fosters technological innovation and attracts investment. Research and development efforts in these regions drive advancements.

Way Forward:

- **Intermittency and Storage:**

- Some renewable sources are intermittent, requiring efficient energy storage solutions to ensure continuous power supply.

- **Infrastructure and Investment:**

- Building and updating renewable energy infrastructure demands substantial investments, which can pose challenges for less economically developed regions.

- **Policy and Regulatory Frameworks:**

- Supportive policies and regulations are essential to incentivize renewable energy adoption and ensure sustainable growth.

By harnessing these resources and transitioning to cleaner energy sources, countries can achieve energy security, economic diversification, and contribute to global sustainability goals. The strategic utilization of renewable energy not only addresses environmental concerns but also catalyzes economic growth and innovation on a global scale.

14. Excessive exploitation of ocean resources has led to a myriad of ecological problems, posing significant challenges to marine ecosystems and biodiversity. Elaborate on the ecological consequences of unchecked ocean resource exploitation. (250 Words) 15

Ans: The ocean, covering more than 70% of our planet's surface, is a vast and vital resource that plays a crucial role in sustaining life and supporting various aspects of human civilization. Its significance extends far beyond its stunning beauty and vastness, as oceans regulate our climate, provide a diverse array of resources, offer avenues for trade and transportation, and hold immense potential for scientific discovery and innovation. In recent times, the significance of ocean resources has become even more pronounced, accompanied by growing concerns about overexploitation.

Ecological consequences

Ecological consequences

- Decline in Fish Stocks and Biodiversity
- Bycatch and Non-Target Species Impact
- Habitat Destruction and Coral Reef Degradation
- Eutrophication and Harmful Algal Blooms
- Ocean Acidification:
- Oil Spills and Marine Pollution:

- **Decline in Fish Stocks and Biodiversity:**

- According to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), approximately 33.1% of the world's fish stocks are overexploited, and 60.3% are fully exploited as of 2022.
- For instance, the collapse of the North Atlantic cod fishery in the 1990s serves as a stark example of the consequences of overfishing, leading to ecological imbalances and economic hardships for local communities.

- **Bycatch and Non-Target Species Impact:**

- Indiscriminate fishing practices often result in substantial bycatch, where non-target species and juvenile fish are unintentionally caught. Bycatch can have severe consequences for marine biodiversity.
- For example, the vaquita, a critically endangered porpoise, faces extinction due to bycatch in illegal gillnet fisheries targeting another species, the totoaba fish, in the Gulf of California.

- **Habitat Destruction and Coral Reef Degradation:**

- Bottom trawling and dredging cause physical damage to seafloor habitats, including coral reefs, seagrass beds, and deep-sea ecosystems.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) reports that 33% of the world's coral reefs are threatened by overfishing and destructive fishing practices.

- **Eutrophication and Harmful Algal Blooms:**

- Excessive nutrient runoff from agriculture, aquaculture, and urban areas leads to eutrophication, resulting in oxygen depletion and the proliferation of harmful algal blooms.
- These blooms release toxins that can devastate marine life and pose risks to human health. The Chesapeake Bay in the United States has experienced recurring dead zones due to nutrient pollution

- **Ocean Acidification:**

- Increased carbon dioxide emissions not only contribute to climate change but also lead to ocean acidification. This phenomenon affects marine organisms, especially those with calcium carbonate shells or skeletons, such as coral reefs and shellfish.
- The Arctic Ocean is particularly vulnerable to ocean acidification, which can disrupt the marine food web and have cascading effects on species like zooplankton and fish.

- **Oil Spills and Marine Pollution:**

- Oil spills from offshore drilling and transportation have long-lasting impacts on marine ecosystems.
- The Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 released millions of barrels of oil, resulting in extensive harm to marine life, coastal habitats, and local economies.



Way forward:

- **Implementing Science-Based Fisheries Management:**

- Governments and international organisations should adopt and enforce science-based fisheries management practices, including setting and adhering to sustainable catch limits.

- **Expanding Marine Protected Areas (MPAs):**

- Establishing and effectively managing MPAs can help protect critical marine habitats and allow ecosystems to recover. The Global Ocean Alliance aims to safeguard at least 30% of the world's oceans in MPAs by 2030.

- **Promoting Sustainable Aquaculture Practices:**

- Encouraging responsible aquaculture practices can help meet the growing demand for seafood while reducing pressure on wild fish stocks.

- **Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing:**

- Strengthening monitoring, control, and surveillance measures can curb IUU fishing. The Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), aims to prevent illegally caught fish from entering markets by enhancing port inspections and enforcement.

In alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water), the international community recognizes the critical importance of conserving and sustainably utilizing our oceans, seas, and marine resources. As we strive to fulfil this goal, we embark on a journey towards a healthier planet where the treasures of the sea continue to enrich our lives while preserving the delicate balance of marine ecosystems.

15. The monsoon exerts an impact on every facet of the Indian subcontinent making it an essential force that shapes the region's dynamics. Elaborate. (250 Words) 15

Ans: The monsoon is a natural climatic phenomenon characterized by a seasonal reversal of wind patterns. It brings about distinct changes in weather conditions and is particularly significant in regions like the Indian subcontinent. Their arrival and progression impact various dimensions, shaping both natural and societal dynamics.

Impact of monsoon on the Indian sub-continent:

- **Agriculture and Food Security:**

- Monsoons dictate the timing and amount of rainfall, which is critical for crop cultivation.
- Adequate monsoon rains are essential for sowing, germination, and growth of crops, thus affecting agricultural productivity and food security.
- Example: In regions like the Gangetic plains, the arrival of the southwest monsoon in June marks the beginning of the sowing season for crops like rice.

- **Water Resources and Hydrology:**

- Monsoon rainfall replenishes rivers, lakes, and groundwater reserves, maintaining water availability for irrigation, domestic use, and industry.
- The timing and distribution of monsoon rains influence water availability throughout the year.

- **Ecosystems and Biodiversity:**

- Monsoons determine the vitality of ecosystems by affecting soil moisture and vegetation growth.
- The availability of water during the monsoon season is crucial for supporting diverse flora and fauna.
- **Example:** The Western Ghats, a biodiversity hotspot, receive heavy monsoon rains that sustain evergreen forests which are home to unique species like the Nilgiri tahr and the Malabar civet.

- **Temperature and Climate:**

- The monsoon's moisture-laden winds moderate temperatures during the summer months, providing relief from extreme heat.
- The seasonal shift in temperature and rainfall patterns defines the climatic seasons of the subcontinent.

- **Cultural Practices and Traditions:**

- Monsoons are deeply intertwined with cultural practices, rituals, and festivals.
- They influence community activities, social gatherings, and agricultural celebrations.

- **Natural Hazards and Disasters:**

- Intense monsoon rainfall can lead to flooding, landslides, and other natural disasters, affecting human settlements and infrastructure.
- Example. Recent landslides in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand were directly related to excessive monsoonal rain.

- **Urban Planning and Infrastructure:**

- Monsoon patterns influence urban planning, drainage systems, and construction practices to manage excess rainfall and prevent flooding.
- Example: Cities like Mumbai are prone to flooding during heavy monsoon rains, necessitating effective drainage systems and flood management strategies.

- **Economic Sectors:**

- Monsoons impact sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, and tourism, which are sensitive to climate variability.
- Disasters like landslides, flooding, etc. due to excessive monsoon rainfall impact the supply chain leading to inflation.
- Example. Recent price rise of tomato was primarily due to monsoon induced disasters in the Himalayan states.

- **Health and Disease:**

- Monsoons influence waterborne diseases, as heavy rainfall can contaminate water sources and contribute to health challenges.
- Example. Recent rise of infections like conjunctivitis, dengue, etc. in Delhi due to excessive rainfall and flooding of Yamuna River.

While the monsoon is undeniably a pivotal force that shapes the dynamics of the Indian subcontinent, it is crucial to recognize that it is not the sole determinant of the region's complex climatic patterns and social systems. The interaction of various factors like orientation of mountains, ocean currents, global trade patterns, culture, etc. collectively contribute to subcontinent's unique climate, economy and social life.

16. Examine the significance of the Black Sea Grain Initiative in optimizing grain trade, enhancing food security, and stabilizing the global agricultural market. Explore the apprehensions arising from its uncertain future and the potential ramifications on global grain supplies and prices. (250 Words) 15

Ans: The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has triggered a polycrisis of global food, fuel and fertilizer insecurity. In February 2022, the cessation of exports from the region resulted in reduced availability and escalated costs, thereby posing a threat to the food security of several nations that are reliant on Russia and Ukraine for their food supplies.

- The **Black Sea Grain Initiative** is a collaborative effort aimed at ensuring the safe export of Ukrainian grains to global markets through a regulated maritime corridor. It helps optimize grain trade, boost food security, and stabilize the global agricultural market by providing a structured framework for grain shipment, especially during conflicts or disruptions.
- The Black Sea Grain Initiative, brokered by the United Nations and Türkiye, was set up to reintroduce vital food and fertilizer exports from Ukraine to the rest of the world.

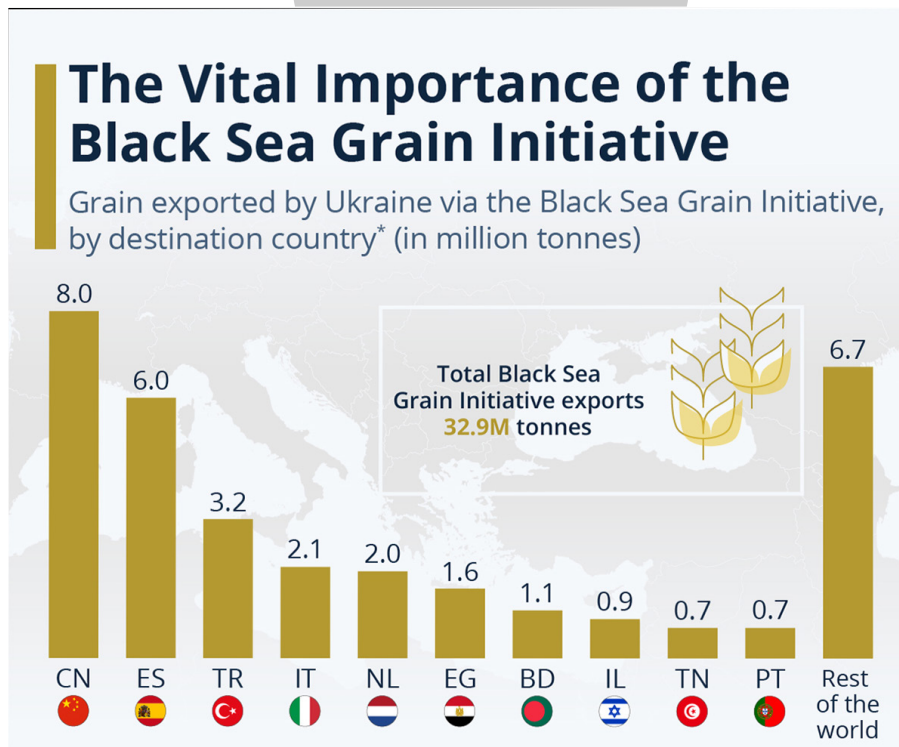
Operational Mechanism:

- **Joint Coordination Centre (JCC):** The JCC, comprising representatives from Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the UN, coordinated and oversaw the initiative's implementation.
- **Commercial Ship Registration:** Commercial ships were required to register with the JCC for monitoring, inspection, and safe passage through the designated maritime corridor.

Significance of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and Challenges

• Significance

- The Black Sea Grain Initiative is crucial for optimizing grain trade, enhancing food security, and stabilizing the global agricultural market.
- It ensures safe passage for Ukrainian food grain exports through key ports like Chornomorsk, Odesa and Yuzhny/Pivdennyi.
- Ukraine, a major exporter of wheat, maize, and other grains, benefits from the initiative's streamlined trade routes.



The Black Sea Grain Initiative holds paramount importance in several key areas that contribute to the optimization of grain trade, enhancement of food security, and stabilization of the global agricultural market in following ways.



Enhancing Food Security:

- According to the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, approximately 9.8 million tonnes of grains have been shipped through the initiative.
- The initiative's presence has prevented hoarding and ensured a consistent supply of grains to various nations..

Stabilizing Global Agricultural Market:

- The UN Food and Agricultural Organisation's Food Price Index reflects the initiative's impact with consecutive months of decline in food prices.
- Stable trade routes provided by the initiative help maintain a balanced supply-demand equilibrium, preventing market fluctuations.

Challenges

- The uncertain future of the Black Sea Grain Initiative raises concerns about its continuation and impact.
- Data shows that Russia's decision to renew the deal for an additional 60 days underscores ongoing negotiations and uncertainty.
- Geopolitical dynamics can potentially disrupt the initiative, affecting global grain supplies.

Role in Preventing Escalation of Prices

- **Significant Grain Shipments:** Approximately 9.8 million tonnes of grains have been successfully shipped under the initiative, contributing to a consistent and reliable flow of essential food commodities..
- **UN FAO Food Price Index:** The continuous decline in the UN FAO Food Price Index over consecutive months demonstrated a potential easing of supply constraints in markets.
- **Hoarding Mitigation:** The initiative compelled grain hoarders to sell their stocks, which eased pressure on supply and prices.
- **Global Cost of Living:** The initiative was credited with making a substantial difference to the global cost of living crisis.
- **Diverse Destination of Shipments:** The initiative's grain shipments have reached various income categories of countries: 44% to high-income, 28% to low and middle-income, and 27% to upper-middle income nations. This diverse distribution positively impacts food security across income levels.

Apprehensions and Uncertain Future:

- Concerns arise due to Russia's withdrawal from the initiative, raising doubts about the continuity of safe grain passage from Ukraine
- Geopolitical tensions, changing diplomatic relations, or unforeseen circumstances could jeopardize the initiative's functioning.
- The potential disruption of this initiative could lead to supply chain interruptions, causing volatility in grain prices.

Ramifications on Global Grain Supplies and Prices:

- The discontinuation of the initiative could result in reduced grain supplies from Ukraine, affecting countries dependent on these imports.
- The reduction in supplies may lead to increased competition among importing nations, potentially driving up prices.
- The global grain market, already sensitive to geopolitical events, may experience further instability due to the initiative's uncertain future.

The Black Sea Grain Initiative offers a valuable step towards stabilizing grain markets and food prices, but broader efforts and collaborations are needed to address the complex challenges impacting food prices and food security.



17. Examine the role of Article 32 as a vital instrument for safeguarding fundamental rights in India. Analyze its capacity to empower citizens in addressing rights violations and enabling judicial intervention to ensure the supremacy of the rule of law and uphold constitutional values.

(250 Words) 15

Ans: Article 32, a cornerstone of Part III of the Indian Constitution encompassing fundamental rights, stands as a powerful recourse for individuals whose fundamental rights are infringed upon. Its significance is aptly reflected in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's assertion that it is the "very soul" and "heart" of the Constitution.

Role and Rationale of Article 32:

- Article 32 upholds the principle of "Ubi Jus Ibi Remedium", ensuring that wherever there is a right, a remedy exists.
- It empowers citizens to directly approach the Supreme Court if they perceive a violation of their fundamental rights, eliminating the need for intermediaries.
- The provision positions the Supreme Court as both guardian and protector of fundamental rights, holding sway as the defender of these rights.
- Writs such as Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Prohibition, Quo Warranto, and Certiorari are potent tools issued by the Supreme Court and High Courts under Article 32 and 226, respectively, to enforce fundamental rights.
- Parliament can also confer similar authority upon other courts, underlining the role of courts as "protectors and guarantors" of these rights.
- The Basic Structure Doctrine asserts that the right to move to the Supreme Court cannot be suspended, except during a national emergency under Article 359.

This article empowers citizens to address violations of their rights and serves as a mechanism for judicial intervention, thereby upholding the rule of law and constitutional values in the country in following ways

Empowerment of Citizens:

- Article 32 empowers citizens by providing them with a direct avenue to approach the Supreme Court when their fundamental rights are infringed upon. This direct access ensures that justice is accessible without unnecessary delays or hurdles.
- The doctrine of "Ubi Jus Ibi Remedium" embodied in Article 32 empowers citizens with a means to seek redressal whenever their rights are violated, promoting a participatory and active citizenry.

Example:

- Arrest of journalist Siddique Kappan, who was detained under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was challenged that, underscores how Article 32 enables citizens to challenge actions that may curtail their constitutional rights.

Facilitating Judicial Intervention:

- Article 32 equips the Supreme Court with the authority to issue writs and orders for the enforcement of fundamental rights. This provision ensures that judicial intervention is readily available to rectify any transgressions.

Example:

- The Supreme Court's role as the defender and guarantor of fundamental rights is exemplified in cases like Shreya Singhal v. Union of India, where it struck down Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, protecting citizens' freedom of expression.
- Another recent example is the Arnab Goswami case, where the Supreme Court's intervention through Article 32 was sought to safeguard an individual's rights.

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Upholding Rule of Law and Constitutional Values:

- Article 32 reflects India's commitment to the rule of law, ensuring that no one is above the Constitution and that individual liberties are sacrosanct.
- Article 32 reinforces the supremacy of the Constitution by providing a mechanism for citizens to challenge laws, policies, and actions that undermine constitutional values.
- By giving individuals the right to directly approach the Supreme Court, it acts as a safeguard against any encroachment on fundamental rights.

Example:

In the Aadhaar case (Puttaswamy v. Union of India), Article 32 allowed the Supreme Court to affirm privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21. This intervention balanced the government's Aadhaar policy with individual privacy, reinforcing core constitutional values

Limitations

- Only applicable when a fundamental right is violated; grievances unrelated to fundamental rights cannot be addressed under Article 32.
- Frivolous petitions are not entertained; citizens must have valid and serious grievances to approach the court.
- The Supreme Court's caseload is substantial, which can lead to delays in hearing Article 32 cases, impacting the timely delivery of justice.
- Cost and time involved in the process can deter citizens from seeking redressal under Article 32.
- Risk of unfavorable rulings; court decisions may not always align with the citizen's expectations.
- Some cases dismissed due to alternative remedies available; citizens might need to explore lower courts or administrative channels

Constitutional remedies are potent tools with immediate impact, making them a vital fundamental right in India. Despite evolving challenges, Article 32 ensures ongoing protection of citizens' rights by the judiciary, assuring that no one is deprived of their rights in an independent nation.

18. SEBI holds a pivotal position in regulating and advancing India's securities and commodity markets. Nonetheless, its operational effectiveness is hindered by several challenges that must be tackled to guarantee a just and transparent market environment. Examine. (250 Words) 15

Ans: Established on April 12, 1992, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) holds a pivotal position in regulating and advancing India's securities and commodity markets. It was recommended by the Narasimham Committee in 1991, following the Harshad Mehta securities scam, highlighting the need for a robust regulatory framework to safeguard investors and ensure market integrity. With headquarters in Mumbai and regional offices across major cities, including New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, and Chennai, SEBI plays a crucial role in maintaining market stability..

Recent Development:

- In a recent development, SEBI sought an extension of six months just before the Supreme Court's established deadline. This extension was requested to allow SEBI ample time to conclude its investigations into allegations made by Hindenburg Research against the Adani group.



SEBI's Powers and Functions:

Powers


- SEBI possesses legislative and quasi-judicial authority, drafting regulations, conducting inquiries, and imposing penalties.
- The 2014 Securities Laws (Amendment) Act empowers SEBI to regulate money pooling schemes exceeding Rs. 100 crore and seize assets for non-compliance.
- The SEBI Chairman can authorize "search and seizure operations."
- SEBI can gather information like telephone call records during investigations.
- SEBI registers and regulates venture capital funds, mutual funds, and enforces regulations on market participants.

Functions:

- Protecting Indian investors' securities market interests.
- Promoting seamless market functioning and development.
- Regulating business operations within the securities market.
- Facilitating platforms for various financial entities.
- Regulating tasks of depositors, credit rating agencies, custodians, foreign portfolio investors, etc.
- Educating investors about securities markets and intermediaries.
- Prohibiting fraudulent practices and ensuring fairness.
- Monitoring company takeovers and acquisitions.
- Keeping the securities market efficient and updated through research.

SEBI's Regulatory Achievements:

- **Investor Protection:** Strengthened investor trust through mechanisms like "Investor Protection and Education Fund" that compensates for intermediary non-compliance.
- **Transparent Market:** Ensured fairness via disclosure norms, exemplified by mandatory disclosure of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) initiatives by listed companies.
- **Market Integrity:** Used advanced tech for vigilant surveillance, promptly identifying irregularities such as the NSE co-location case.
- **Innovation and Access:** Enhanced retail investor access with streamlined IPO procedures, exemplified by the "Unified Payment Interface."
- **Corporate Governance:** Improved accountability, shareholder rights with norms like mandatory independent directors and audit committees.
- **Investor Education:** Boosted financial literacy via initiatives like "Smart Investor" workshops and online resources.
- **Collaboration:** Global partnerships with bodies like IOSCO ensured global best practices in regulation.
- **Enforcement:** Showcased market discipline with significant penalties, such as the Rs 25 crore fine on Reliance Industries.
- **Market Development:** Fostered diversification with well-regulated financial products like alternative investment funds (AIFs).
- **Technology Adoption:** Enhanced regulatory efficiency via tech-integrated surveillance like the Integrated Market Surveillance System (IMSS).

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Challenges Faced:

- SEBI's role complexity has increased, leading to a focus on market conduct regulation.
- SEBI's enforcement powers surpass counterparts in the US and the UK, leading to concerns about potential economic injury.
- Regulatory powers are substantial, lacking prior consultation and review mechanisms, causing fear and unease among stakeholders.
- Regulation gaps exist, particularly in areas like insider trading.
- Securities offering documents are voluminous and lack substantive disclosures.

Reforms Needed:

- A change in approach to policy cleanup.
- Enhanced human resource management and lateral entry for talent.
- Strengthened enforcement through continuous monitoring and improved market intelligence.
- Consideration of a unified financial regulator to address overlap and segmentation issues.

SEBI's role is paramount in ensuring a trustworthy capital market. Greater transparency, accountability, and alignment with best practices are necessary. SEBI should preemptively address market incidents to maintain investor trust and market integrity.

19. President's Rule in Indian states is a Constitutional provision aimed at maintaining law and order and ensuring good governance, but its potential misuse has raised concerns about the integrity of democratic processes. Mention the procedure for imposition of President's rule. Also, highlight the issues associated with the provision of President's rule. (250 Words) 15

Ans: Article 356 of the Constitution provides for the provision of "President's Rule" or "State Emergency." This constitutional provision empowers the President of India to take over the administration of a state when there is a perceived failure of the constitutional machinery in that state.

Procedure:

- **Governor's Report:** The process begins with the Governor of the state sending a report to the President. The report outlines the reasons for the failure of the constitutional machinery in the state, such as a breakdown of law and order or an inability to form a stable government.
- **Union Council of Ministers' Recommendation:** Based on the Governor's report, the Union Council of Ministers assesses the situation. The central government may seek additional information from the Governor. If the Council of Ministers believes that the situation warrants central intervention, it recommends the imposition of President's Rule to the President.
- **President's Satisfaction:** The President evaluates the recommendation of the Union Council of Ministers. The President must be satisfied that there is indeed a breakdown of the constitutional machinery in the state and that other alternatives, such as seeking a report from the Governor, have been exhausted.
- **Proclamation of President's Rule:** Once the President is satisfied, a proclamation is issued declaring that the administration of the state will be carried out by or on behalf of the President. The state government's powers and functions in the state are temporarily suspended, and the President takes over the administration through an appointed representative.
- **Parliamentary Approval:** A proclamation imposing President's Rule must be approved by both Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue. The approval takes place through a simple majority in both House, i.e., a majority of the members present and voting.



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- **Duration and Extensions:** Initially valid for six months, President's Rule can be extended for a maximum period of three years with the approval of Parliament, every six months.
- **Revocation:** A proclamation of President's Rule may be revoked by the President at any time by a subsequent proclamation. Such a proclamation does not require parliamentary approval. This typically happens when a party leader demonstrates majority support in the legislative assembly and stakes a claim to form the government.

Issues:

- **Misuse for Political Gains:** President's Rule has been at times misused for political gains, leading to allegations of its imposition based on political considerations rather than genuine breakdowns of governance.
- **Threat to Federalism:** The imposition of President's Rule can be seen as encroaching upon the autonomy of states and weakening the principles of federalism, as it involves central government intervention in state affairs.
- **Lack of Clarity in Criteria:** The criteria for determining when President's Rule should be imposed lack clarity, leaving room for subjectivity and differing interpretations, potentially leading to its arbitrary use.
- **Impact on Development and Governance:** President's Rule can disrupt the continuity of policy and governance in states, affecting development initiatives and creating uncertainty in administrative decisions.
- **Undermining Local Representation:** The suspension of state legislative assemblies and elected governments can undermine the representation of local issues and concerns, impeding effective democratic governance.

In order to prevent the potential misuse of Article 356 and to uphold the true spirit of democratic governance, it is imperative that the recommendations laid out by the Supreme Court in the S.R. Bommai case are followed in true letter and spirit.

20. Explain how societies can make substantial strides towards fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals pertaining to health, water and sanitation by investing in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives? (250 Words) 15

Ans: WASH collectively refers to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene. These interconnected facets are amalgamated under this term to address a growing sector of vital importance. While each aspect holds its own significance, their effectiveness is intertwined, relying on the presence of the others.

For example-

- Toilets are crucial to preventing water contamination,
- Clean water is essential for practicing basic hygiene.

The core essence of WASH lies in educating communities and school children about basic sanitation and hygiene, with a specific emphasis on promoting gender equality and girls' education.

Global estimates on WASH amenities

- A 2016 report by WHO and UNICEF reveals global inadequacy of WASH services in healthcare.
- Approximately 896 million lacked water services.
- Over 1.5 billion lacked sanitation services.
- One in six facilities lacked hygiene services.
- Inadequate data on waste management and environmental cleaning.

Investing in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives can significantly advance the achievement of multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those pertaining to health (Goal 3), water and sanitation (Goal 6), and gender equality (Goal 5) and other such as :



Health Improvement (SDG-3):

- By preventing waterborne diseases and reducing the spread of infections, WASH interventions reduce child mortality (Target 3.2) and improve overall health and well-being.

Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG-6):

- WASH initiatives align with the goal of ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Access to safe drinking water (Target 6.1) and proper sanitation facilities (Target 6.2) is at the core of WASH efforts.

Gender Equality (SDG-5)

- WASH initiatives play a critical role in achieving gender equality by addressing the specific needs of women and girls.
- Provision of proper sanitation facilities can help ensure the dignity, safety, and privacy of women and girls

Quality Education (SDG-4)

- Access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene services in schools supports Goal 4's aim of providing inclusive and equitable education

Reduced Inequalities (SDG-10)

- WASH initiatives can help reduce inequalities by ensuring that vulnerable populations, including marginalized communities, have access to essential services.

Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG-8)

- Enhanced health due to WASH interventions leads to a more productive workforce and contributes to economic growth..

Life Below Water and Life on Land (SDG-14 and 15)

- Proper waste management and sanitation practices promoted by WASH initiatives contribute to conserving ecosystems and preventing water and soil pollution.

Significance of WASH

- WASH's significance highlighted by WHO report.
- 395,000 child deaths linked to unsafe WASH.
- Diarrhea and respiratory infections major causes.
- Half of global population lacks adequate WASH access.
- WHO's "Burden of Disease" report (2019) highlighted inadequate WASH access, causing 1.4 million deaths and 74 million DALYs.

Positive Impact:

- A 2012 WHO report showed that investing in sanitation yields \$5.50 for every dollar spent, due to lower health costs, increased productivity, and fewer premature deaths.
- WASH aligns with infection prevention, control, and antimicrobial resistance, offering solutions across multiple challenges in healthcare settings.
- Vital in preventing and managing Neglected Tropical Diseases, promoting intensified control or elimination efforts.



Challenges in India:

- High cost: Enhancing WASH across Indian healthcare facilities could cost \$354 million in capital and \$289 million in recurrent expenses.
- Global access issues: WHO-UNICEF report (2019) indicated that 1 in 4 healthcare facilities lacked basic water service, 1 in 5 lacked sanitation, and 42% lacked hygiene facilities.
- Solid and liquid waste management gaps persist, with limited twin-pit system usage and insufficient waste disposal arrangements.

Way forward

- Include WASH training in healthcare education.
- Collaborate with rural communities for WASH awareness.
- Promote twin-pit sanitation system for inclusive approach.
- Back Swachhata Pakhwada Campaigns for hygiene awareness.
- Allocate budgets for twin-pit toilet construction.
- Instill sanitation values in children through initiatives.
- Drive improvement through Swachha Survekshan Abhiyan.
- Push bio-toilet use in water-scarce regions.
- Adopt technology like cleaning robots for safer sanitation.
- Involve Swachhata Doots, NGOs, CSOs for holistic impact.

Investing in WASH initiatives not only addresses specific SDGs related to health, water, sanitation, and gender equality but also contributes to broader sustainable development by promoting well-being, equality, environmental stewardship, and inclusive partnerships.