

NEXT IAS

CSE MAINS

PREVIOUS YEARS SOLVED PAPERS

2019-2023

GENERAL STUDIES

- ✓ Detailed model solutions of last 5 years CSE Mains.
- ✓ Pictographic presentation with maps & graphs.
- ✓ Topicwise Trend analysis of last 5 years.
- ✓ Value addition boxes wherever relevant.

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CSE MAINS PREVIOUS YEARS SOLVED PAPERS: GENERAL STUDIES

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First Edition: 2023

Second Edition: 2024

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*Director's
Message*

History is full of lessons, and the History of UPSC Civil Services lies in its previous year's questions. I often tell students that the first and most important step to conquer an examination like UPSC is to understand it thoroughly. The best way to understand the exam is through the syllabus and analysis of the previous year's questions. This book is an effort to make sure that you learn the most out of the history of the Civil Services Examination.

The book contains solved previous year questions of the UPSC Civil Services (Mains) Examination from 2019 to 2023. The questions have been segregated paper-wise as well as year-wise to make them more accessible for the students. The rationale behind including questions from 2019 is a major shift in the pattern and difficulty level of the Mains examination post-2019. A compilation from 2019 ensures that the questions are in-line with the latest trends of the exam.

There are three distinctive features that make this book stand apart from the existing options. First, we have included a trend analysis of the subject-wise marks distribution over the past 5 years. Second, the answers have been made as informative as possible while still being concise. Third, answers are enriched with necessary value additions, examples, maps, diagrams, etc where needed.

The NEXT IAS team has put sincere efforts into preparing this valuable resource for the students. I hope this book will stand up to the expectations of aspirants and my desire to serve the student community by providing the best study material will get accomplished.

B. Singh (Ex. IES)

CMD, NEXT IAS & MADE EASY Group

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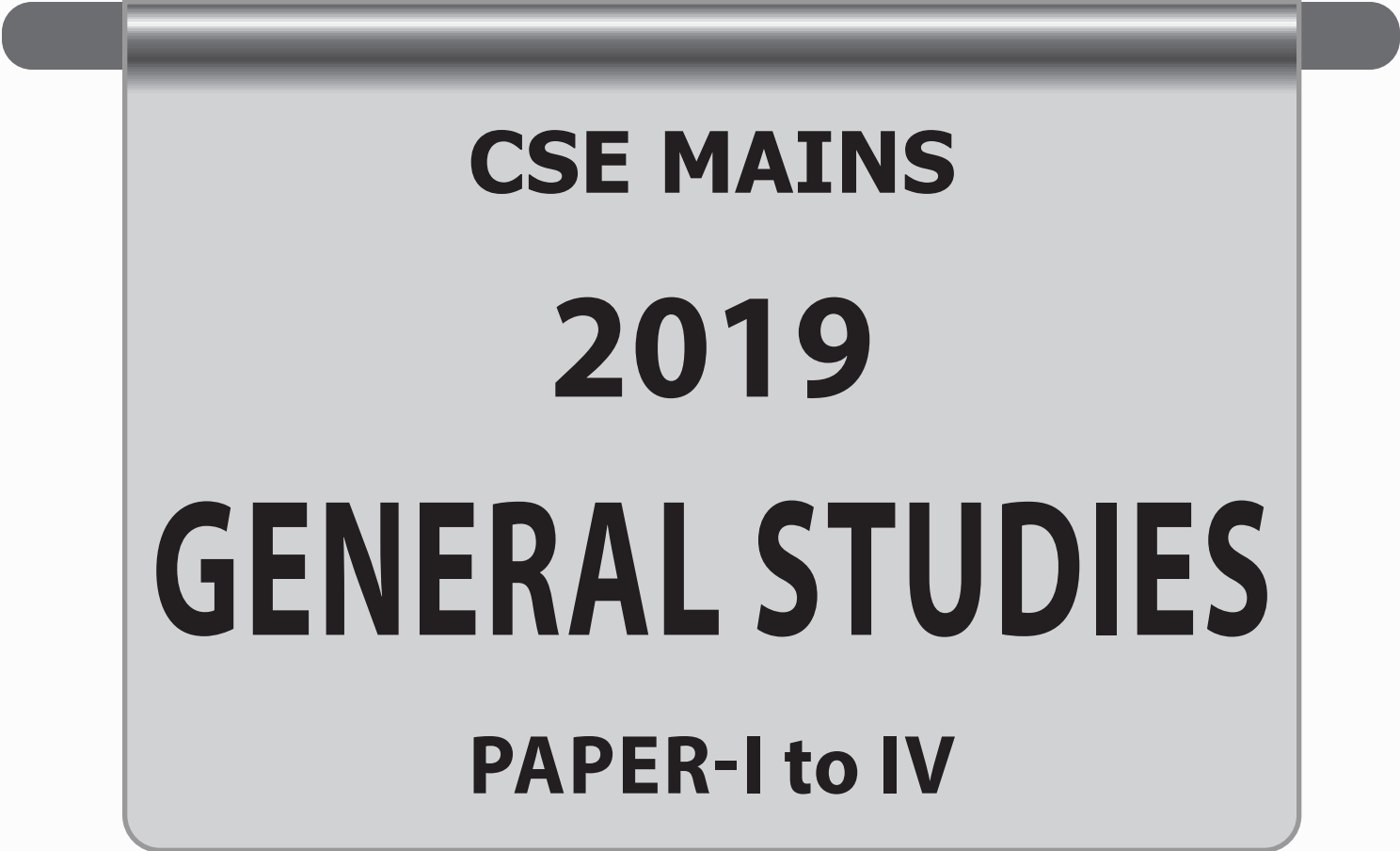
CSE 2019-2023 TOPIC WISE WEIGHTAGE

SYLLABUS KEYWORD		YEAR WISE WEIGHTAGE (MARKS)				
GENERAL STUDIES PAPER-I						
CIVIL SERVICE EXAM YEARS		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
INDIAN AND WORLD HISTORY						
1	Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.	40	40	10	50	10
2	Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues, The Freedom Struggle - its various stages and important contributors /contributions from different parts of the country.	25	35	40	25	50
3	Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.			10		
4	History of the world will include events from the 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.- their forms and effect on the society.	10		15		15
SOCIETY						
5	Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India. Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies. Effects of globalization on Indian society. Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.	75	75	75	75	75
GEOGRAPHY						
6	Salient features of world's physical geography. Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India). Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.	100	100	100	100	100

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER-II						
CIVIL SERVICE EXAM YEARS		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
POLITY						
1	Constitution, Polity: Indian Constitution- historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure. Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein. Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions. Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these. Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity. Salient features of the Representation of People's Act. Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies. Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies	125	105	125	125	125
SOCIAL JUSTICE						
2	Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation. Development processes and the development industry- the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections. Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources. Issues relating to poverty and hunger.	40	70	40	55	35
GOVERNANCE						
3	Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures. Role of civil services in a democracy.	35	25	35	20	50
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS						
4	India and its neighborhood- relations. Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/ or affecting India's interests Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian Diaspora. Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.	50	50	50	50	50

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER-III						
CIVIL SERVICE EXAM YEARS		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
ECONOMY						
1	Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment. Inclusive growth and issues arising from it. Government Budgeting. Land reforms in India. Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth. Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc. Investment models.	50	70	50	50	65
AGRICULTURE						
2	Major crops cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System-objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing. Food processing and related industries in India- scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.	50	40	50	50	35
BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENT						
3	Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment	40	40	35	35	25
DISASTER MANAGEMENT						
4	Disaster and disaster management.	10	10	15	15	25
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY						
5	Technology: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life . Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology. Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.	50	40	50	50	50
SECURITY MANAGEMENT						
6	Linkages between development and spread of extremism. Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security. Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention Security challenges and their management in border areas; linkages of organized crime with terrorism. Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate	50	50	50	50	50

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER-IV						
CIVIL SERVICE EXAM YEARS		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
1	Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.	30	30	10	40	
2	Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion. Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service , integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections. Emotional intelligence- concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.	20	20	30	40	10
3	Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world. Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.	30	10	50	20	40
4	Quote Based Questions	30	30	30	30	30
5	Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.	20	40	10		50
6	Case Studies	120	120	120	120	120



CSE MAINS
2019
GENERAL STUDIES
PAPER-I to IV

2023

GENERAL STUDIES

PAPER-II

1. “Constitutionally guaranteed judicial independence is a prerequisite of democracy”. Comment.

(10 Marks, Answer in 150 words)

The concept of judicial independence is a sine-qua-non of democratic societies. Judicial independence is a concept where the judiciary makes its decisions without any interference from the executive or legislative branch of government. The Supreme Court in S.P. Gupta vs. UOI Case, 1981, Kesavanand Bharati vs. UOI Case and I.R. Coehlo vs. UOI Case have declared “independence of judiciary” and “judicial review”, a part of the Basic Structure of Constitution.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE UNDER INDIAN CONSTITUTION

1. **Independent Appointment:** The Indian Constitution provides that the judges of the higher judiciary shall be appointed by the President after consultation with such a number of judges as he may deem fit. The evolution of the collegium system through the three judges cases have made the appointment procedure completely independent.
2. **Security of Tenure:** The judges of the higher judiciary enjoy security of tenure till the age of 65 for the judges of Supreme Court and 62 for the judges of High Courts. They can only be removed by the President after a process of impeachment by the Parliament which is very rigorous.
3. **Salaries and Allowances:** The salaries and other allowances of the judges and the expenditure of the higher judiciary are charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India and are not subject to parliamentary approval.
4. **No Power to Diminish Powers:** The Parliament has the power to expand the powers and jurisdiction of higher judiciary but cannot diminish it.
5. **No Discussion on Conduct:** According to Article 121, the parliament is not allowed to discuss the conduct of the judges except under impeachment motion.
6. **Separation of Judiciary and Executive:** Article 50 provides that there shall be separation of executive and judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONALLY GUARANTEED JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE IS A PREREQUISITE OF DEMOCRACY

1. **Rule of Law:** Judicial independence is the basic premise of rule of law as the judiciary is independent of any other influence and can implement the laws without fear or partiality. This essentially provides the basic principle of rule of law which is equal treatment before the law.
2. **Checks and Balances:** Judicial independence works as an effective check over the misuse of powers by the executive and legislature. An independent judiciary prevents any arm of government to assume authoritarian character.
3. **Protection of Rights and Liberties:** Judicial independence is a prerequisite for the protection of rights and liberties of the citizens guaranteed by the Constitution. Judicial independence is necessary to prevent encroachment into the rights and liberties of the citizens by the State.
4. **Governance:** Judicial independence ensures that the State is governed by constitutional principles which is a prerequisite of democratic society. Any variation from the constitutional values through legislative or executive action can be challenged before the judiciary for being violative of the Constitution.
5. **Conflict Resolution:** An independent judiciary also promotes amicable and peaceful resolution of conflicts in the society which ascertains peace and social stability. For example, the peaceful resolution of the Ayodhya conflict by the Supreme Court.

6. **Fair and Just Society:** Judicial independence also ensures equality of resources and opportunities to all cities which help in development of a fair and just society with equitable distribution of resources. For example, the role played by the Supreme Court in giving permanent commission to women in armed forces.
7. **Interpretation of Laws and Constitution:** Judiciary plays an important role as the interpreter of the Constitution and its principles. Independence of judiciary is necessary to ensure liberal and citizen-centric and constitutionally coherent interpretation of laws by the judiciary. For example, in the Kesavanand Bharati vs. UOI Case, the Supreme Court evolved the basic structure doctrine which is the bedrock of constitutional interpretation.
8. **Evolution of Rights:** Judicial independence ensures the expansion and evolution of the rights of citizens with the changing dynamics of the society. For example, the rights of LGBTQ+ people, right to bodily autonomy of women, right to privacy etc. were evolved through important Supreme Court judgements.
9. **Confidence in Citizens:** Judicial independence ensures public faith in the justice system as well as the democratic setup of the nation. For example, Article 32 and 226 provides citizens the power to approach higher judiciary against any encroachment of rights.
10. **Prevent Arbitrary Acts:** The independent judiciary plays a critical role in regulating the administration's arbitrary actions. It provides redressal to those who have been harmed by the administration's unlawful actions.

The idea of judicial independence is essential for the development of true participatory democracy, the preservation of the rule of law, and the provision of social justice to the most vulnerable sections of society. It is the prerequisite for the smooth functioning of the Constitution and for the realisation of a democratic society.

2. Who is entitled to receive free legal aid? Assess the role of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in rendering free legal aid in India. (10 Marks, Answer in 150 words)

Access to justice is recognized by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as one of the most basic rights. Article 39A read with Article 14 and 21 provides for free legal aid to persons eligible for it. In pursuance of the Article 39-A, Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 was enacted. The Act was adopted to give a statutory base to legal aid programmes throughout the country.

PERSONS ENTITLED TO FREE LEGAL AID:

1. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
2. Victims of Trafficking or "Begar"
3. Women and Children
4. Mentally Ill or Disabled Persons
5. A person who is going through tough times, like being affected by a big disaster, violence based on ethnicity or caste, a flood, drought, earthquake, or a big industrial accident.
6. Industrial Workmen
7. Individuals in custody, including those in protective homes as defined in the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, juvenile homes as defined in the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986, or psychiatric hospitals or nursing homes as defined in the Mental Health Act, 1987, can avail free legal services.
8. **Income Eligibility:** Individuals with an annual income less than the specified amount (as mentioned in the schedule or higher amount prescribed by the State Government) are eligible for free legal services if the case is before any court other than the Supreme Court. For cases before the Supreme Court, the income threshold is less than Rs 5 Lakh.

On 5th December 1995, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), a statutory body came into existence. NALSA has been constituted to lay down policies and principles for making legal services available under the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

ROLE OF NALSA IN RENDERING FREE LEGAL AID IN INDIA

1. NALSA is responsible for **providing free legal assistance to poor and weaker sections** of the society. It also provides for the organisation of legal aid camps to expand its reach and accessibility to the underserved and poor areas.
2. NALSA facilitates **legal representation for the poor and vulnerable sections** in various courts like the Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts.
3. NALSA facilitates **clinical legal education programmes and legal aid clinics** in universities, law colleges and other institutions to **provide for research and development in the legal field** and educate people about their rights and entitlements under the law. For example, the “Legal Literacy Clubs” in schools and colleges are to instil legal awareness among students.
4. NALSA **promotes ADR through mediation, conciliation and amicable resolution** of disputes and organisation of Lok Adalats.
5. NALSA provides **counselling services and advice to victims of various forms of violence**, including domestic violence and sexual assault.
6. NALSA has also **played role in promoting and protecting the rights of LGBTQ+ community** by filing PIL and writs in the Supreme Court and High Courts for expansion of rights and liberties of such communities. For example, the NALSA judgement which provided recognition to LGBTQ+ community in India.
7. NALSA also renders **legal aid to under-trial prisoners** so as to provide them effective representation in the courts. NALSA works to provide **legal aid and support to victims of human trafficking**, ensuring their rehabilitation and protection while pursuing legal action against traffickers.
8. NALSA has set up legal aid clinics near bus stands, railway stations, and labour markets to **provide immediate legal assistance and advice to internal migrants**.
9. NALSA plays an active role in **advocating for legal reforms and policy changes to improve access to justice** and enhance legal aid services in India.
10. NALSA also plays an important role in **enabling compensation to victims of heinous crimes through compensation claims filings**.

IMPEDIMENTS FACED BY NALSA IN RENDERING LEGAL AID SERVICES

1. More than 80% of India's 1.3 billion people are eligible for legal aid. But only 15 million have benefitted from it since NALSA was established in 1995.
2. These **legal aid services are for the poor and illiterate people, and the major issue is that they are not educated**.
3. There are **very few counsels who contribute these services but the lack of good quality legal representation** hinders the delivery of justice.
4. Lok Adalats have **limited powers as compared to civil courts**.
5. The ADR mechanisms under NALSA are poorly utilised.
6. There is a **lack of proper training, monitoring, verification, of the para legal volunteers**.
7. As per India Justice Report 2019, **expenditure on legal aid in India has been only Rs. 0.75 per capita spent in 2018 and Rs. 1.05 in 2019-20**.
8. A study by Justice S. Muralidhar shows that the **majority of the funds are utilised for administrative services, rather than legal aid itself**. Panel lawyers are not adequately compensated, which results in a subpar quality of service to clients.
9. **As of 2020, there were only 14,159 clinics for approximately 6,00,000 Indian villages**.

WAY FORWARD:

1. It is imperative that per capita spending along with the budget allocated to NALSA be increased. Additionally, provision could be made for companies to spend their corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds for legal aid.
 2. It is critical that lawyers, legislators, and the judiciary recognise their roles in upholding the vision of Article 39A. The legislature and judiciary must collectively require every advocate to take on a minimum number of pro bono cases during their tenure.
 3. We must increase the involvement of law schools in the justice delivery process.
 4. Involving and increasing the role of non-governmental organisations to create awareness amongst the people about their rights and effective justice delivery can help.
3. **“The states in India seem reluctant to empower urban local bodies both functionally as well as financially.”**
Comment. **(10 Marks, Answer in 150 words)**

The 74th Constitutional Amendment, 1992 provided constitutional status to urban local bodies in India. NITI Aayog in its “Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India” report in 2021 stated that only 12 States in India have fully devolved powers to urban local bodies in India. This highlights the reluctance of the States to empower urban local bodies in India.

RELUCTANCE OF THE STATES TO EMPOWER URBAN LOCAL BODIES FUNCTIONALLY

1. **Poor Devolution of Powers:** Most of the States have been reluctant to transfer and devolve functions to the urban local bodies. For example, in CAG Report 2018-19, it was highlighted that most of the functions of the urban local bodies under the XII Schedule were discharged by the departments of the State Government except sanitation, solid waste management and street vendors.
2. **Power to Suspend any Resolution or Decision:** The State Government in almost all States have the power to suspend any resolution or decision of the urban local bodies which renders them ineffective in their performance of functions.
3. **Poor Capacity:** Most of the urban local bodies lack the administrative capacity, technical expertise and resources to perform any function devolved.
4. **Overlapping Functions:** Several agencies are involved in planning and infrastructure development, at both city and state levels, with overlapping functions. This leads to a lack of accountability, causing delays, resource wastage and poor functioning of urban local bodies. For example, Bengaluru Development Authority for Land Regulation and Karnataka Slum Clearance Board for Slum Rehabilitation.
5. **No Timely Elections:** As highlighted by the CAG Report 2018-19, there is prolonged delay in almost 75% of the States to organise municipal and urban bodies elections.
6. **Poor Training:** The elected representatives are poorly trained and thus are highly dependent on non-elected officials. This often weakens the structure of the urban local bodies in States.
7. **No Authority of Mayors:** In states where mayors are directly elected, their authority is often nominal due to municipal commissioners wielding more decision-making power.
8. **Interference:** The State MLAs and Local Politicians often interfere in the decision-making of the urban local bodies which hinders the functioning of these bodies.

RELUCTANCE OF THE STATES TO EMPOWER URBAN LOCAL BODIES FINANCIALLY

1. **Poor Viability:** According to the Economic Survey 2018-19, there exists a low equilibrium trap, where the urban local bodies appear to be not collecting revenues from taxes. Almost 4% of revenue is arranged from own taxes and 96% from devolution from the States and Centre.
2. **Dependence of the State Grants:** The urban local bodies are highly dependent on the grants by the State Government.

3. **Lack of Diversified Sources:** A significant portion of revenue for the urban local bodies, almost up to 60%, is derived solely from property taxes, indicating a lack of diversification in revenue streams like public-private partnerships, municipal bonds, user charges or borrowings.
4. **States Finance Commission:** Many States have not constituted SFCs. The constituted SFCs work in extreme resource constraints. They lack accurate and updated data on finances of the urban local bodies. This leads to poor implementation of SFCs' recommendations.
5. **Lack of Accountability:** As urban local bodies are often dependent on the State Governments for funding, they work in consonance with the policies of the State rather than being responsive to the local demands of the citizens.
6. **Principle for Subsidiarity:** As highlighted by the 15th Finance Commission, there is lack of principle of subsidiarity in functioning of the urban local bodies. The subjects like health and sanitation which require huge financial resources often suffer due to lack of devolution of funds.
7. **Poor Dissemination of Funds by Finance Commission:** The grants recommended by the 14th and 15th Finance Commission are seldom devolved to the local bodies as seen by the recent RBI report.
8. **SPV and PPP:** The rise in PPP and SPV-led infrastructure projects often lead to poor financial resources to the urban local bodies as they are never involved in the process. The finances are often generated by private funding.
9. **Corruption:** The urban local bodies are often inefficient and corrupt which leads to wastage of resources. There are huge concerns related to fiscal management of the urban local bodies.

By 2030, almost 73% of the population shall dwell in urban areas, making urban governance a point of focus. There is an urgent need to empower the urban local bodies financially and functionally through the following measures:

1. **Fifteenth Finance Commission:** The 15th Finance Commission provides for principle of subsidiarity in functioning of PRIs and ULBs. The functions like sanitation, primary health, elementary education must be completely devolved to urban local bodies as they are most suited for it.
 2. **Devolution of Funds:** Proper devolution of funds should be there to urban local bodies both by the States and Centre to prevent program paralysis and make them financially viable. The 15th Finance Commission has recommended a sum of Rs. 4,40,000 crore with an additional Rs. 70,000 crore as health grant considering the importance of local urban bodies and panchayats in primary health. Additionally, PRIs must be encouraged to raise funds through bonds.
 3. **Social Audit:** There should be a social and financial audit of the schemes launched by urban local bodies.
 4. **Planning:** The urban local bodies must be involved in the planning stage at both States and Central Level to ensure bottom up planning.
 5. **Training of Functionaries:** In order to improve the understanding of roles, responsibilities, programs and procedures, there should be proper training programs of the elected representatives.
 6. **Regular Elections:** Every State must ensure there are regular elections to the urban local bodies to ensure diversity in leadership continuity in functioning.
 7. **Structural Improvements:** Every local body should have a functional secretary to empower them.
 8. **Mayor:** There should be devolution of real authority to elected representatives including the mayors and other elected representatives.
4. **Compare and contrast the British and Indian approaches to Parliamentary Sovereignty.**
(10 Marks, Answer in 150 words)

Parliamentary sovereignty is the fundamental focus of both Indian and British systems of governance. According to this, Parliament is the sovereign authority in the country with authority to frame laws for the nation. However, the British and Indian approaches to Parliamentary Sovereignty have certain differences.

COMPARISON BETWEEN INDIAN AND BRITISH APPROACH TO PARLIAMENTARY SOVEREIGNTY

1. **Constitution:** The British Constitution is unwritten and uncodified. It is sourced by various laws, conventions, historical antecedents and judicial precedents. However, the Indian Constitution is written and codified.
2. **Amendments:** The British Constitution can be amended by the Parliament without any restrictions while in India, the Constitution can only be amended by an elaborate process enshrined under Article 368.
3. **Parliamentary Supremacy:** The British Parliament is the supreme legal authority, and no other body or authority can challenge or overrule its decisions, while the Indian Parliament is subject to checks and balances by the executive and judiciary.
4. **Unitary vs. Federal System:** The British Parliament is unitary and there is no division of powers between the Union and the States. Indian Parliament is federal with division of powers between the Union and the States. For example, under the Seventh Schedule, there is division of legislative powers between the Centre and the States..
5. **Balance between Constitutionalism and Parliamentary Sovereignty:** In India, parliamentary sovereignty is balanced by constitutionalism of authority. This means that Parliament shall work within the prescribed ambits of the Constitution. In Britain, the Parliament is Supreme authority and is considered as the voice of the people. Thus, there are no constitutional limits on the authorities of Parliament.
6. **Judicial Review:** In Britain, there exists no concept of judicial review where the courts have the power to review the laws made by the Parliament. In India, judicial review is a part of Basic Structure of the Constitution, which means the higher judiciary has the power to declare laws made by the Parliament unconstitutional and void, if they are violative of the Constitution.

The Indian Constitution is the supreme authority and is driven by the principles of separation of powers, division of powers, doctrine of checks and balances. In India, Parliament while enjoying sovereign status is subject to checks and balances by the executive and judiciary. This allows Indian democracy to retain its status as an inclusive, accountable democracy that upholds constitutionalism.

5. **Discuss the role of presiding officers of state legislatures in maintaining order and impartiality in conducting legislative work and in facilitating best democratic practices.**

(10 Marks, Answer in 150 words)

*Article 178 and Article 182 of the Constitution prescribes the offices of Speaker and Deputy Speaker of State Assemblies and office of Chairman and Deputy Chairman of State Legislative Council. The offices of presiding officers, according to Pt. Nehru, represents the freedom of the House, and as the House represents the nation, **represents liberty and freedom of the nation.***

ROLE OF PRESIDING OFFICERS OF STATE LEGISLATURES IN MAINTAINING ORDER AND IMPARTIALITY

1. **Maintenance of Order:** The presiding officers are responsible for maintenance of and maintaining parliamentary decorum in the House. The power to **suspend members is to prevent disruption of proceedings and prevent violation of rules of procedure.**
2. **Protecting Freedom of Speech and Expression:** The presiding officers are also the guardian of freedom of speech and expression in the House. The **presiding officers allocate time for debates and deliberations over issues** of public importance.
3. **Interpreter of Constitution and Rules:** The presiding officers in the state legislatures are the **final interpreter of the Constitution in the House and also Rules and Parliamentary Procedures.**
4. **Impartial and Neutral Role:** The presiding officers **maintain impartiality and neutrality in their conduct and decisions** within the House. They take decisions according to the Rules of Procedures without political affiliations.

5. **Quasi-Judicial Role:** The presiding officers have **duties as quasi-judicial body in matters related to disqualifications under X Schedule, suspension of MPs from the House, maintenance of order** of the House. These roles are also performed in a manner to maintain parliamentary decorum and constitutionalism within the House.
6. **Formation of Committees:** The presiding officers have a **role in formation of committees** like DRCs, Business Advisory Committees, etc. to facilitate the process of debate and deliberation within the House.
7. **Face of Legislature:** The presiding officers also **represent the state legislature in external matters, including interactions with the executive branch, the governor, and other stakeholders** and also represent them in summits and conventions.
8. **Accountability of Executive:** The presiding officers also play an important role in holding the executive accountable through **better management of Question Hour and Zero Hour proceedings, motions like adjournment motion, no-confidence motion, short-duration etc.**
9. **Consensus:** The presiding officers often **hold meetings with leaders of different political parties to discuss the agenda** and maintain consensus on conducting proceedings. This ensures participation of all the political voices in the House.
10. **Other Issues:** The role of presiding officers in **money bills matters, or joint sessions of the Houses** is also crucial.

ISSUES WITH THE ROLE OF PRESIDING OFFICERS

1. **Disqualification Matters:** The Supreme Court in *Keisham Meghachandra Singh vs. Hon'ble Speaker of Manipur Assembly* observed that the **presiding officers continue to belong to a particular party de jure or de facto**. Their decisions **lack objectivity and impartiality** especially in cases of disqualification under X Schedule.
2. **Suspension of Opposition MPs and MLAs:** The presiding officers' role in **suspension of opposition MPs or MLAs** has also come under question where the presiding officers try to change the majority in favour of his party by suspending opposition MPs or MLAs. This issue was observed in *Ashish Shelar vs Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Case* where Supreme Court declared the suspension of 12 MLAs unconstitutional and void.
3. **Money Bills:** The role in **certification of money bills** have also come under radar, as observed in the *K S Puttaswamy v. Union of India* where it was alleged that certification is being used to bypass Rajya Sabha scrutiny of a bill.
4. **Reference to Parliamentary Committees:** Many important bills are passed in the state legislatures without proper debate and discussion and almost 95% of bills are put to vote without referring them to committees. As presiding officers are the final authority in deciding the time for debates and reference to committees, their role in parliamentary proceedings have also come under question.
5. **Admission of Motions:** The presiding officers in several instances refused to admit motions proposed by the opposition MPs so as to prevent the scrutiny of government over important issues.
6. **Adjournment of Sittings:** The presiding officers are often criticised for adjourning the sittings of the House according to the whims of the Treasury Bench. This affects the overall productivity of the House.
7. **No Security of Tenure:** The Supreme Court in *Kihoto Hollohan vs. Zachillhu & Others* observed that since the presiding officers' tenure is dependent on the will of the majority, likelihood of political bias cannot be ruled out.

Impartiality, fairness and autonomy in decision-making are the hallmarks of the office of the presiding officers. This can be ensured through innovative measures like practice of once a speaker, always a speaker is followed in the UK. The recommendations of the Supreme Court and NCRWC must also be looked into to improve the role of presiding officers.

6. The crucial aspect of the development process has been the inadequate attention paid to Human Resource Development in India. Suggest measures that can address this adequacy.

(10 Marks, Answer in 150 words)

India's development process has suffered inadequate attention being paid to Human Resource Development in India. India is ranked 132 out of 191 nations in UN's MDI ranking which shows lack of adequate HRD in India.

INADEQUATE ATTENTION PAID TO HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

1. **Education Gap:** India's education system suffers problems like poor enrollment rates, urban-rural gap, gender divide, high drop-out rates, inadequate infrastructure and high student-teacher ratio. This has been due to inadequate attention on the education sector in India.
2. **Skill Mismatch:** India's education suffers a problem of skill mismatch. The education is not industry related which creates issues of employment and employability. For example, only 4-5% of the workforce in India is skilled for modern industries. The lack of vocationalization of education in schools and colleges is also an issue.
3. **High Unemployment:** India's working population is also facing an issue of unemployment with almost 7.83% unemployment according to CMIE.
4. **Poor Health Status:** India's healthcare facilities are inadequate to maintain the required health status of India. There is a lack of proper hospital infrastructure including PHCs, DCs and SHCs. There is inadequate access to medicines and crucial infrastructure like oxygen, implants, modern diagnostics facilities, and life-saving infrastructure.
5. **Poor Immunisation:** The level of immunisation in India is poor with only 10-12% of the population fully immunised which leads to high susceptibility to diseases and pandemics.
6. **Undernourishment:** The issue of undernourishment is also an area of concern with almost 50% of children suffering from stunting and wasting and almost 60% of women suffering from anaemia.
7. **Poor Access to Resources:** The level of access to resources is poor in India with almost 80% of population having lack of land resources, almost 90% suffering from lack of credit facilities etc.
8. **Divide:** There is huge divide between different sections of population especially digital divide which leads to poor human resource development in India.
9. **Poor Investment:** There has been inadequate public and private investment in education, healthcare, and skill development. This has hindered the development of human capital. For example, only 1% of GDP on healthcare in India.

MEASURES TO BE UNDERTAKEN TO IMPROVE THE STATUS

1. **Education and Skills:**
 - a. There should be an enhanced focus on improving quality and access to education in India. There should be access to education through digital classrooms to all underserved and backward regions.
 - b. The education system should be industry relevant with focus on enhanced vocalisation of education to meet the demands of industry.
 - c. The focus should be on reducing the skill-gap through programmes like Skill India. There should be industry-relevant skills to the workforce to improve employment and employability.
2. **Health:**
 - a. There should be focus on improved accessibility to doctors, medicines that too at affordable rates.
 - b. The health infrastructure must be improved to global standards. For example, the number of PHCs must be according to the population density in the region.
 - c. There should be focus on universal and compulsory immunisation.
 - d. The access to health infrastructure like diagnostics, medical equipment, medicines etc. must be improved.

3. **Nutrition:**
 - a. The nutrition status of women and children must be improved by improving investment in nourishment programmes like POSHAN Abhiyan.
 - b. There should be access to clean water and sanitation.
4. **Research and Innovation:** Improved investment in R&D can improve the overall quality of life in India.
5. **Digital Literacy:** There should be increased **investments in digital literacy programs** to ensure that individuals have the skills to navigate the digital world, which is increasingly important in education and employment.
6. **Gender Equality:** There should be increased access to resources, opportunities, education and other facilities for women to reduce gender disparities.
7. **Access to Resources:** The access to resources must be equitable with focus on equitable distribution of land, credit etc.

Improved focus and access to human resource development programmes is essential for inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth in India improving India's rank in the UN's MDI. This is a complex and long-term endeavour that requires a sustained commitment from government, civil society, educational institutions, and the private sector.

7. **Discuss the role of the Competition Commission of India in containing the abuse of dominant position by the Multinational Corporations in India. Refer to the recent decisions.**

(10 Marks, Answer in 150 words)

The Competition Commission of India is a statutory body established under the Competition Act, 2002 to eliminate practices having adverse effects on competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.

ROLE OF COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA IN CONTAINING THE ABUSE OF DOMINANT POSITION BY THE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS

1. **Antitrust Enforcement:** The CCI is empowered to initiate inquiry and investigation against the companies for alleged abuse of dominant position in the market to prevent discriminatory pricing, predatory pricing and other same conditions. For example, recently CCI imposed a penalty of Rs. 940 crores on Google for abuse of dominance in the market.
2. **Initiating Inquiries:** Section 19 of the Competition Act, 2002 allows the CCI to initiate *suo-moto* enquiry on complaints, information from stakeholders. For example, recently CCI initiated an inquiry against WhatsApp privacy policy for being violative of the provisions of the Act.
3. **Anti-Competitive:** CCI also investigates anti-competitive agreements and practices like cartels, collusion and monopolies etc. For example, CCI's recent action against the lottery systems in Mizoram for being anti-competitive.
4. **Mergers and Acquisitions:** CCI also assesses and examines the impact of mergers and acquisitions on the overall competition in the market so as to prevent dominant position and its abuse. For example, CCI recently issued a show cause notice on the Air India-Vistara merger.
5. **Anti-Profiteering:** The recent merger of CCI with National Anti-Profiteering Authority gives CCI power to prevent profiteering by the companies by establishing exorbitant prices misusing dominant position.
6. **Competition Neutrality:** Competition neutrality ensures a fair, level playing field in markets, regardless of public or private ownership. The aim is to prevent unfair advantages given to PSUs which distorts markets. In the recent Supreme Court judgement in *Coal India Limited vs. Competition Commission of India* held that PSUs cannot override the Competition Act, 2002 and are subject to scrutiny by CCI's regulations to prevent monopolistic tendencies and dominant position misuse.

7. **Cooperation with International Organizations:** Given the international nature of global companies, CCI engages with WTO and other global organisations to ensure proper address to global anti-competitive mechanisms. For example, the role of CCI in the WTO.

CHALLENGES FACED BY CCI

1. **Digital Economy:** In the recent times of digital economy, it is often difficult to prevent antitrust and anti-competitive activities. The rise of digital legislations and digital businesses is a challenge to CCI. For example, the recent European Digital Markets Act is a way forward.
2. **Pendency:** There are huge backlogs and pendencies with the CCI which can be attributed to limited capacity and resources.
3. **Lack of Expertise:** The lack of expertise available with CCI is also a challenge as seen with India's deliberations in WTO.
4. **Definition of Market:** India's Commission needs to update its definition of "market" now. Since, there are no boundaries in the digital space, defining relevant markets has been a tough task for regulators around the globe.
5. **Overburdened Authority:** The merger of NAA with CCI has overburdened the organisation.
6. **Cross Border Competition:** CCI's have often failed to address cross-border competition issues in India.
7. **Threat of Cartelization:** There is a possibility of threat from cartelization especially due to pandemic and global wars which have adversely impacted the global supply chains.
8. **Overlap:** Various sectors have their own regulators like TRAI in the telecom sector which has caused overlap with CCI.

CCI's role has remained crucial in facilitating competitive markets, consumer protection and evolving innovation in India. CCI has adjudicated almost 1200 antitrust cases since 2009 with a disposal rate of 90% and reviewed almost 900 mergers and acquisitions in an average time of 30 days.

8. **e-governance, as a critical tool of governance, has ushered in effectiveness, transparency and accountability in governments. What inadequacies hamper the enhancement of these features? (10 Marks, Answer in 150 words)**

e-Governance is the application of information and communication technologies to transform the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of informational and transactional exchanges within government, between government and government agencies, citizens and businesses, and to empower citizens through access and use of information.

e-GOVERNANCE AS A CRITICAL TOOL OF GOVERNANCE

A. EFFECTIVENESS

1. **Efficiency:** The effective use of ICT services in the Government **has greatly enhanced existing efficiencies, driven down communication costs and increased transparency** in the functioning of various departments.
2. **Reduced Cost and Time:** The use of ICT reduces cost and time significantly allows governments to allocate resources more effectively.
3. **Better Delivery of Services:** They provide better service delivery through efficient targeting using Aadhaar-led authentication processes to prevent exclusion and inclusion errors.
4. **Ease of Access:** They allow easy access to government services anywhere and anytime.
5. **Single Portal:** Integrated e-governance platforms can link various government departments and services, making it easier for citizens to access a wide range of services through a single portal.

B. TRANSPARENCY

1. **Transparency:** They enable transparency through digital audit and tracking of services through digital portals.
2. **Reduced Red-Tapism:** They reduce red-tapism and restrict bureaucratic involvement.
3. **Better Communication:** They enhance G2G, G2B and G2C communication.
4. **Open Data:** The database of digital services is often open-sourced and can be audited by citizens on a daily basis.

C. ACCOUNTABILITY

1. **Easy Tracking:** The ICT services are easy to track and any ambiguities or irregularities can be traced and officers in charge can be held accountable.
2. **Grievance Redressal:** There is effective grievance redressal through portals like CPGRAMS which help connect government officials with citizens.
3. **Feedback Loop:** ICT services can help in creating a feedback loop which allows citizens to provide feedback and complaints about government services. For example, instant resolution of complaints in the IRCTC app.
4. **Participation:** The ICT-led services can facilitate citizen engagement and participation in decision-making processes.

IMPEDANCE IN ENHANCEMENT OF SUCH FEATURES**1. Poor Awareness and Digital Illiteracy:**

- a. **Digital Illiteracy:** Almost 90% of the population in India can be considered illiterate about the functioning of the digital sector. This includes the vulnerable sections of the society like senior citizens, SCs, STs and women. These sections are the major beneficiaries of ICT projects and digital illiteracy creates a problem of poor service delivery and exclusion.
- b. **Exclusion Errors:** Due to poor infrastructure under JAM of beneficiaries identification, there are inclusion and exclusion errors. For e.g., fingerprint identification has excluded several bonafide beneficiaries from benefits under NFSA, 2013.
- c. **Poor Training:** There is a lack of IT sector industries and poor training infrastructure for the younger generation. For e.g., the IT-BPM sector grew only at a rate of 8%.

2. ICT Infrastructure:

- a. **Geographical Bottlenecks:** Due to last mile bottlenecks, varied topography, it is almost impossible to connect all areas with optical fibres, thus it is important to find alternate solutions for rural connectivity. For e.g., A&N is poorly connected through optical fibres.
- b. **Lack of Adequate Infrastructure:** Despite having one of the highest smartphone penetration in the world, India doesn't have requisite internet infrastructure due to lack of optical fibre network to cater to the needs of the people.
- c. **CSC Centres:** To provide common services to far flung areas, CSCs were established. However, the CSCs have suffered frequent closures and almost 1/3rd of CSCs are non-functional.
- d. **Limited Electricity Supply:** Many rural areas suffer limited supply of electricity which is a major requirement for ICT projects

3. **Fragmentation of Services:** A challenge that is more prevalent on the supply side is the fragmentation of systems at different levels (i.e. the central and the state levels) and the lack of system integration. Analysis of the e-Government services provided by the Central and State Governments have revealed that similar e-Government schemes are separately implemented across various Governments. This is simply a waste of resources.

4. Skilled Manpower and Bureaucratic Issues:

- a. **Complex Procedures:** The procedures and process of filing is complex and causes extra burden on the beneficiaries. Most of the beneficiaries fail to comply with such complex procedures.
- b. **Poor Technical Proficiency:** The government officials implementing such projects are not skilled enough to handle the technical challenges that may arise. For e.g., e-Passport Seva Portal is difficult for the government officials to understand.
- c. **Language Barriers:** The ICT platforms are driven by English. They are difficult to understand by the majority of the population. There is a need to regionalise the portals to make it accessible.
- d. **Cyber Issues:** There are several issues related to cyber crimes and privacy. There are several reports suggesting data leakages, data misuse, cyber attacks etc.
- e. **Lack of Trust in Government:** The expansion of e-government websites alone will not help unless cultural change occurs, in order to support transparency, minimise bureaucracy, and enhance citizen empowerment. After all, citizens will trust e-government only when they have trust in government and public agencies. In other words, India needs to move from e-government to e-governance.
- f. **Privacy Concerns:** Since there is no data privacy law in the country, privacy issues have become a real issue. For e.g., the Aadhaar system has been hacked and data has leaked.

HOW TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION?

1. In order to realise the full benefits of ICT based programs, digital divide and illiteracy should be addressed first. The potential of Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities be realised and promoted.
2. Gram Panchayats must be trained to educate common people about the benefits of ICT based programs.
3. Robust identification processes must be installed to reduce inclusion and exclusion errors.
4. Training programmes under PMKVY must be provided specific to the IT sector.
5. Geographical bottlenecks can be addressed through a robust and sustainable system of CSCs and promotion of government programs such as BharatNET to promote network of optical fibres.
6. Companies like Google, Microsoft must be engaged in providing 4G and 5G networks to the far flung areas to improve speed and connectivity.
7. The work-process of ICT based projects should be simplified and made consumer-centric by improving interface and making it accessible.
8. Technical proficiency of the government officials must be improved through in-service training.
9. Every ICT platform must be regionalised in language so that every citizen can understand the working in their vernacular languages.
10. A strong cyber-defence system must be installed to protect sensitive data from cyber attacks.
11. To remove fragmentation, there should be a national database of schemes, so that there is no duplication of schemes and data.
12. New technologies like AI, Cryptocurrency, Blockchain must be effectively studied and utilised to improve service delivery of schemes. For e.g., the e-Rupee scheme uses blockchain-like technology to reduce leakages of subsidies.
13. There should be an increased partnership between the government and private sector since the majority of the country's cyber resources are controlled by entities outside of the government.
14. Government Schemes like Digi Locker, Digital India Mission, e-Kranti, DBT etc. boost the confidence of common citizenry in e-Governance. However, there are issues such as Aadhaar authentication failure that create doubts about the efficacy of such systems.

ICT based governance is the future of governance in the era of Web 2.0, 3.0, Blockchain, Cryptocurrency as peer-to-peer access is changing the world into a small global village. So, to improve the efficacy of ICTs, crucial steps must be taken by the Governments.

9. 'Virus of Conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO.' In the light of the above statement, point out the role of India in mitigating the problems. (10 Marks, Answer in 150 words)

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an intergovernmental organisation founded in Shanghai on 15 June 2001. The SCO currently comprises 8 Member States (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan).

In less than two decades, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has emerged as a key regional organisation in the Eurasian space. It accounts for over 60% of Eurasia's territory, more than 40% of the world's population, and almost a quarter of the world's GDP.

VIRUS OF CONFLICT AFFECTING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE SCO

1. **India-China:** India and China relations suffer from border disputes and rising mistrust especially after the 2017 Doklam and 2020 LAC standoff.
2. **India-Pakistan:** India and Pakistan relations suffer from extreme tensions due to border disputes, state-sponsored terrorism and frequent ceasefire violations.
3. **Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan:** The border disputes between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan which escalated in 2022 establish the issue of stability in Central Asia.
4. **Rising Expansionist China:** The expansionist policies of China which include lone wolf diplomacy, debt diplomacy, expansion of roads and infrastructure in disputed areas, policies like BRI and OBOR along with territorial expansionist policies is an area of concern.
5. **Geopolitical Interests:** States like Russia, China and India have different geopolitical interests especially in relations with the western States like the USA which creates tensions within the organisation.
6. **Skeptical Approach:** SCO has faced an issue of skeptical expansion with States like Iran and Afghanistan facing opposition for membership.
7. **Poor Focus on Counterterrorism:** The focus of SCO is counterterrorism, however, presence of States like Pakistan, create issues within the organisation over actions.
8. **Resource Sharing:** China has disputes over large areas of land with several Central Asian countries like Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Water sharing and border issues between Central Asian countries like Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.
9. **Authoritarian States:** The presence of authoritarian states like China, Russia within a democratic organisation creates problems of human rights violation and democratic values as against other organisations like G20.
10. **Cybersecurity:** The issue of cybersecurity and state-sponsored cyberterrorism is also an issue of conflict within the States of SCO. For example, India has blamed China for supporting cyberattacks against India.

ROLE OF INDIA IN MITIGATING THE PROBLEMS

1. The presence of India can help in **encouraging dialogue and cooperation within the States of SCO, especially on security and counter-terrorism** issues. This is due to India's capacity to build consensus. For example, the **Heart of Asia** summit organised by India can be a part of SCO deliberations.
2. India can also help in **expansion of trade and investment agreements and connectivity agreements** between the States. For example, India is a part of the Ashgabat Agreement.
3. India can also help in organising **joint-exercises with the SCO States in counterterrorism and disaster management**.
4. India is a member or participant of almost all of the multilateral organisations around the world like G20 which provides its **the leverage to mitigate the issues within such organisation**.
5. The **role of India in Afghanistan** can also help in strengthening the discussions within the SCO.

6. India also boasts the **presence of democratic and soft-diplomacy values which can help in easing tensions**. For example, the organisation of SCO Food Festival in 2019 by India.
7. Post CoViD-19 crisis and Ukraine War, SCO is also playing an important role in establishing ties and cooperation in the fields of food security, vaccine development etc. and also playing an important role in providing mediation ground for Russia-Ukraine war. **India can play a crucial role in this direction**.
8. As an experienced democratic nation, **India can evolve a robust dispute resolution mechanism within the SCO** drawing from global practices.

The SCO is an attractive forum for regional states, but its internal contradictions are a cause for concern. Preventing conflict between member states is a higher priority for the SCO.

Acknowledging the strategic importance of the Indo-Pacific Region and SCO, the Prime Minister had articulated the foundational dimension of Eurasia being 'SECURE'. The word SECURE stands for: S-for Security of our citizens, E-for Economic development for all, C-for Connecting the region, U-for Unite our people, R-for Respect for Sovereignty and Integrity, and E-for Environment protection. SCO plays an integral role in realisation of this vision.

10. **Indian diaspora has scaled new heights in the West. Describe its economic and political benefits for India. (10 Marks, Answer in 150 words)**

According to the Ministry of External Affairs Report, there are almost 32 million NRIs (Non-Resident Indians) and OCIs (Overseas Citizens of India) residing outside India which forms the world's largest overseas diaspora. These NRIs and OCIs play a very decisive role in structuring the economy and politics of the resident nations as well as derive economic and political benefits for India.

THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR INDIA

A. ECONOMIC BENEFITS

1. **Remittance:** In 2019, Indians living abroad sent more than \$83.1 billion in remittances which makes a significant portion of India's forex and almost 3.2% of India's GDP.
2. **Investments:** The Indian diaspora especially in the West has invested heavily in Indian companies including technology, healthcare, pharmaceuticals etc. The overall investment from western diaspora is almost \$ 300-400 billion. Indian diaspora can be facilitated to contribute to the Indian development story by investing in the greenfield and brownfield projects, as well as, portfolio investments in India.
3. **Technology Transfer:** The Indian diaspora hold top positions in major tech companies like Google (Sundar Pichai), Microsoft (Satya Nadella), HCL (Shiv Nadar), Chanel (Leena Nair), Raj Subramaniam (FedX), Arvind Krishna (IBM), Shantanu Narayan (Adobe) etc. This helps in technology transfer to India especially in IT space.
4. **Global Supply Chains:** The Indian diaspora has contributed significantly to the global supply chains especially in creating a source and pipeline for raw materials and intermediate products.
5. **Trade Ties:** The Indian diaspora promotes India's exports and helps forge trade links between India and their countries of residence. This boosts India's international trade.
6. **Workforce:** The Indian diaspora also forms a part of the global workforce and a skilled ground for Indian participants.
7. **Market Expansion:** The Indian diaspora helps in expansion of global markets for India.

B. POLITICAL BENEFITS

1. **Pressure Groups:** Indians form a major pressure group in Western Politics which plays an important role in policy formulation in the West. For example, the Indian diaspora is playing an important role in negotiations related to the India-UK trade deal.

2. **Diplomacy and Soft Power:** Indians play an important role in establishing Western support in important forums like the UN, NSG etc. For example, India has received immense support from almost the entire west for entry in NSG as a non-NPT nation. This helps India in consolidating its position as a strong pole in international politics.
3. **Lobbying:** Indians play an important role in important diplomatic decisions due to their lobbying efforts. For example, The National Federation of Indian-American Association played an important role in removing sanctions against India in NSG (1998) and then in the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Deal (2006).
4. **Perception:** The outflow of the Indian diaspora has positively transformed the perception of the world towards India. For example, the dominance of Indians in computer software, particularly in the Silicon Valley, has strengthened the image of India as a technology powerhouse and a source of quality human resources.
5. **Soft Power:** Cultural events, festivals, yoga promotion by immigrant groups spread awareness of Indian culture abroad. This expands India's soft power globally. For example, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Western Countries.
6. **Promotion of Indian Culture and Languages:** Indian diaspora communities play a role in preserving and promoting Indian languages, cultures and scripts abroad, contributing to linguistic diversity and cultural preservation.

With more and more Indians moving outside, the Indian diaspora needs to be celebrated as they remain crucial for establishing India's position as a global force. The status of OCI lets them enjoy their ancestral linkage with India and remain Indians at least in their culture and hearts. Implementation of L.M. Singhvi Committee's recommendation for welfare of Indian diaspora can be the way forward in deepening the links between Indian citizens and Indian diaspora.

11. **"The Constitution of India is a living instrument with capabilities of enormous dynamism. It is a constitution made for a progressive society." Illustrate with special reference to the expanding horizons of the right to life and personal liberty.**
(15 Marks, Answer in 250 words)

According to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Constitution is a dynamic document that should grow with the growth of the nation and should suit the changing needs and circumstances. This has led to the Constitution being a living instrument with capabilities of enormous dynamism.

DYNAMISM OF CONSTITUTION

1. **Constitutional Amendment:** The dynamic nature of the Constitution is reflected through the amendability of the Constitution under Article 368.
2. **Fundamental Rights:** The fundamental rights under Part III of the Constitution are inclusive and have expanded through various judgements giving an all encompassing rights to citizens. For example, Right to Life and Personal Liberty under Article 21.
3. **Harmonious Construction:** The Constitution establishes a harmonious construction between the fundamental rights and DPSPs to provide a balanced approach to society.
4. **Judicial Review:** The power to judicial review which allows higher judiciary to review the laws and amendments made by the legislature and declare it void allows the foundational principles of the Constitution to survive with changing dynamics.
5. **Emergency Provisions:** The 44th Constitutional Amendment restricts the misuse of emergency provisions even in changing dynamics of the society which ensures stability.
6. **PIL:** The provisions of PIL helps in expansion of rights and liberal interpretation of laws by the higher judiciary.

The Right to Life and Personal Liberty under Article 21 has been ever expanding according to the demands and needs of the society. This can be seen in the decisions by the Supreme Court to interpret Article 21 in a liberal manner.

EXPANDING HORIZONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND PERSONAL LIBERTY

1. **Maneka Gandhi vs. Union of India, 1978:** In this landmark judgement, the Supreme Court interpreted the right under Article 21 of the Constitution to be beyond mere human existence to living with dignity reflecting the progressive nature of the Constitution. This is considered as the magna carta of the Article 21 and its expanding nature.
2. **M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India, 1985 and Satish Kumar vs. State of Bihar, 2021:** The Supreme Court in these judgments provided the Right to Clean Environment as a fundamental right under Article 21.
3. **K.S. Puttaswamy vs. Union of India, 2017:** The Supreme Court in this landmark judgement provided the Right to Privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21. This is considered as the acceptance of a new concept of privacy which is the demand of modern society.
4. In **People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) vs. Union of India, 2001**, the Court highlighted food as essential, reflecting the Constitution's living nature by addressing fundamental human rights.
5. **Navtej Singh Johar vs. Union of India, 2018:** The Supreme Court included the rights and liberties of LGBTQ+ communities and decriminalised homosexuality in this judgement. This shows the adapting nature of the Constitution to societal changes.
6. In **Anuradha Bhasin vs. Union of India, 2019**, the Supreme Court recognized the right to access the internet as a fundamental right, underlining the necessity to adapt the constitutional rights to contemporary realities
7. In **Aruna Ramchandra Shanbaug vs. Union of India, 2011**, the Supreme Court, recognized the right to die with dignity, permitting passive euthanasia under stringent guidelines, marking a significant evolution in the understanding of the Right to Life.
8. The expansion of Article 21 to include **Right to Marriage, Right to Bodily Autonomy, Right to Move to Foreign States, Right to Opportunities** by the Supreme Court shows the accommodating and inclusive dynamism of the Constitution which is reflected through judicial antecedents, judgments and proceedings.

The Constitution of India is a dynamic document with global features and inclusive nature which adapts to the changing nature of the society. The role of higher judiciary has also been crucial in acknowledging the societal changes and expanding the horizons of the Constitution beyond the mere written versions.

12. Explain the constitutional perspectives of Gender Justice with the help of relevant Constitutional Provisions and case laws. (15 Marks, Answer in 250 words)

The Indian Constitution gives a new dimension to gender justice in India. Gender justice refers to equality of treatment and opportunities to all irrespective of gender. The Constitution of India engenders the growth and justice to all by providing equality of rights and opportunities and giving special preference for the growth of women.

CONSTITUTIONAL PERSPECTIVES OF GENDER JUSTICE IN INDIA

1. **Article 14:** Article 14 guarantees to every person the right to equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India. This ensures absence of any special privilege in favour of any individual but the State is under an obligation to take necessary steps so that every individual, man and woman alike, is given equal respect which he or she is entitled to as a human being.

Though Article 14 allows reasonable classification, classification based entirely on sex is not permissible. In **AIR India vs. Nergesh Meerza**, the Supreme Court declared that no discrimination with treatment is permissible based entirely on the basis of gender.

2. **Article 15(1):** Article 15 (1) prohibits the State from discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them. All laws are to be applied to members of both sexes equally, and there is an express prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of sex.
3. **Article 15(3):** The provisions of non-discrimination under Article 15(1) do not prevent the State from making any special provisions for women and children. This provision has enabled the State to make special statutory provisions exclusively for the welfare of women.
4. **Article 16(1):** Article 16 provides equality of opportunity in public employment, irrespective of gender. The principle of equal pay for equal work is also covered by equality of opportunity in Article 16(1). Article 16(4) also provides for special provisions to be made in favour of women and other social and economically backward classes.
5. **Article 19:** Article 19 (1)(g) of the Constitution guarantees that all citizens have the right to practise any profession or to carry on any occupation or trade or business. The right under Article 19 (1)(g) must be exercised consistently with human dignity. Therefore, sexual harassment in the exercise of this right at the work place amounts to its violation. To realize “gender equality”, the Supreme Court has laid down exhaustive guidelines in the case of **Vishaka vs. State of Rajasthan, 1991** to prevent sexual harassment of working women at their workplace.
6. **Article 23:** Article 23 prohibits human trafficking and forced labour, which disproportionately affects women and girls.
7. **Article 21:** Article 21 provides right to life and personal liberty which includes the right to live with dignity. Article 21 also expands the right to privacy, right to marriage, right to bodily autonomy which form the part of gender justice and gender rights. Recently, the Supreme Court in **MTP Act, 1971 Case**, provided that women shall have the right to abortion and bodily autonomy.
8. **Article 39(a) & (d):** The Article 39 enshrines the principle of equal pay for equal work and ensures an equal means of livelihood for both genders. This allowed enactment of the Workmen’s Compensation Act, 1923, the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Maternity Benefit Act 1961, and the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 etc.
9. **Article 42:** Article 42 specifically speaks of just and humane conditions of work, and maternity relief. The Supreme Court has stated that the validity of an executive or administrative action in denying maternity benefit has to be examined on the anvil of Article 42.
10. **Article 44:** Article 44 provides that the State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens, a Uniform Civil Code, throughout the territory of India. In matters relating to marriage, divorce, adoption, maintenance and succession, different personal laws have treated and placed women on different levels. Thus, the Constitution provides for uniformity of personal laws for women empowerment.
11. **Article 51A(e),(f):** Article 51A mandates the renunciation of practices derogatory to the dignity of women and emphasises respect for women.
12. **73rd and 74th Amendment Acts, 1992:** This amendment provided for reservation of seats in local bodies for women, ensuring their participation in grassroot-level governance.
13. **106th Amendment Act, 2023:** This amendment for reservation of 33% seats for women in the House of People & in the Legislative Assemblies of State.

The Constitution, through its provisions, amendments, and judicial interpretations has ensured an evolving framework for gender justice in India. However, due to patriarchal setup, poor implementation, despite the fact that the Constitution has a large number of provisions to preserve gender justice and equality, they have all been rendered ineffective.

Constitution, legislation and legal prescriptions alone will not be enough to influence people’s beliefs. India requires a new change that promotes humanism and respect for individual dignity and liberty.