

UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 01st June-2021

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Recently, the government of India released the Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019 to promote clinical research in the country. Analyze various challenges associated with clinical trials in India.

A clinical trial is a systematic study to generate data for discovering or verifying the clinical and pharmacological profile (including pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic) or adverse effects of a new drug on humans.

Clinical trials in India are governed by the acts: Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, Medical Council of India Act, 1956 and Central Council for Indian Medicine Act, 1970.

The Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019 aims to promote clinical research in the country. These rules will change the regulatory landscape for the approval of new drugs and conduct of clinical trials in the country. These rules will be applicable to all new drugs, ethics committee and investigational drugs applicable for human use, bioequivalence studies and clinical trial in India.

Challenges associated with clinical trials in India

- The big problem plaguing clinical research is an over-representation of low-income groups among trial subjects.
- In Many cases consent of the participants in the clinical trials is not taken.
- In most cases the ethics committee is not constituted and people on such committees are not well trained.
- There is a lack of independence for the ethics committee working.
- There is a need to register with the Clinical Trials Registry of India for all clinical trials conducted in India. But registration is mostly done for positive trial cases. So, there is a lack of transparency.
- There are no well-developed international standards dealing with clinical trials. India is a signatory of the Declaration of Helsinki but that is voluntary in nature and lack regulatory mechanisms.
- There is a chance of collusion between drug companies and doctors.
- Compensation for participating in research as well as research related injury is a major bone of contention these days.
- Moreover, regulatory failure and unethical clinical trials are also major issues.

To reap the benefits of clinical trials, our objective should be to bring about more clinical research in the country while maintaining high standards to ensure patient safety and accuracy of data.

UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 02nd June-2021

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Innovation is not confined to science labs; it is abundant in societies waiting for new policies. In this context, elucidate how the STIP 2020 is adaptive to dynamic changes in the society.

Enabling change at a societal level is a complex and long-term process that requires continuous adaptation, coordination and agility. In other words, transformative innovation policies never stop being made and revised over time and space.

Adaptively of STIP 2020 to dynamic changes

- The STIP 2020 will be India's fifth policy on science, technology and innovation in around 73 years after independence. None of the previous four policies were made amidst a raging pandemic and economic distress.
- Enabling change at a societal level is a limitation of any static process, which can be easily overcome if STIP 2020 can be considered as a non-linear and dynamic set of guidance for enabling societal change over the course of time.
- STI policy can deliver towards tackling future sustainability crises and make explicit the complexities and impossibility of a finalized output for achieving SDGs, especially in a year as difficult and uncertain as 2020.
- Adopting a more agile policymaking strategy, efforts should go into making space for distributed use and rapid iterations of a non-linear and dynamic set of guidance for STI in the years to come.
- The present pandemic as well as persistent sustainability challenges demand a considerable departure of the new policy from the previous ones in terms of policy process and outcomes for which STIP 2020 is a forward step.
- Instead of catching up with others perceived to be ahead in the league, India's path to a sustainable and equitable future could be marked by its own innovativeness, collective (albeit contradictory) imaginaries and support for experimentation towards sustainability.
- The aim is not to follow but to learn from and join other countries in the journey towards sustainable futures.

The publication of STIP 2020 should be considered only a starting point in the long marathon of transforming societal systems for achieving SDGs over the next decade.

UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 03rd June-2021

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The Accelerated Vigyan scheme is an initiative to strengthen mechanisms of identifying research potential, mentoring, training and giving hands-on workshops on a national scale. Explain the objectives of the scheme. Also discuss various components of the scheme.(150words)

Accelerate Vigyan (AV) strives to provide a big push to high-end scientific research and prepare scientific manpower which can venture into research careers and knowledge-based economy. Its aim is to expand the research base in the country, with three broad goals – consolidation / aggregation of all scientific training programs, initiating High-end Orientation Workshops and creating opportunities for Research Internships.

The scheme seeks to garner social responsibility of the scientific community in the country.

Objectives of the scheme

- Providing a thrust to high-end scientific research;
- A platform for research internships and capacity-building programs
- preparing scientific manpower

The vision is to expand the research base with three broad goals:

- consolidation / aggregation of all scientific programmes;
- initiating high-end orientation workshops; and
- creating opportunities for research internships for those who do not have access to such resources

ABHYAAS

- ABHYAAS is an attempt to boost research and development in the country by enabling and grooming potential post-graduate / PhD students by developing their research skills in select areas.
- It has two components: High-end workshops ('KARYASHALA') and research internships ('VRITIKA').
- This is especially important for those who have limited opportunities to access such learning capacities / infrastructure.

SAMOOHAN

- Mission 'SAMOOHAN' marks the beginning of Accelerate Vigyan.
- It aims to encourage, aggregate and consolidate all scientific interactions in the country under one common roof.
- It has been sub-divided into 'SAYONJIKA' and 'SANGOSHTI'.
- SAYONJIKA is an open-ended program to catalogue the capacity building activities in science and technology supported by all government funding agencies in the country.
- SANGOSHTI is a pre-existing program of SERB.

UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 04th June-2021

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Biodiversity conservation not only ensures that our surroundings are richer and more diverse, but also secure the resources that enhance the quality of human life. Discuss challenges in conservation practices of biodiversity.

Biodiversity provides the basis for life on earth, including human life, and is the key to safeguarding the wealth of the world for future generations. By conserving biodiversity, we not only ensure that our surroundings are richer and more diverse, but we secure the resources that will continue to provide improvements in the quality of human life. Far from competing with the security of food and other supplies of natural products, biodiversity is our best guarantee of protecting and enhancing our agriculture, health and leisure pursuits.

Current issues in conservation practices of biodiversity

Resource-use Conflicts

- In the wider landscape, conflicts between development and biodiversity arise as a consequence of the over-exploitation of natural resources bringing about a direct loss of wildlife species and habitats. Equally problematical to biodiversity is the intensification of production systems.
- In replacing mixed production with monocultures, diverse low input cropping systems are replaced by genetically uniform production systems.
- Disputes typically arise where natural resources are exploited for commercial gain and where biodiversity is perceived to be harmful to the production process

Trade Policies

- Natural resources are frequently undervalued in global markets because little or no account is taken of external costs and benefits in the environment.
- The removal of policy barriers has stimulated a global decline in primary commodity prices which may in turn give rise to shortcuts in production methods that are damaging to the environment.
- trade liberalisation can also stimulate markets for new products. The changes can have both positive and negative effects on biodiversity.

Ecosystem Management

- The management of natural resources such as timber, antelope, tuna or shellfish for large scale production purposes has usually concerned itself with single target species, or small numbers of similar species.
- Sometimes annual harvests have been limited to a sustainable level by the introduction of quotas or by restricting hunting and harvesting effort in other ways, but all too often populations have been exploited with little restraint until they no longer offer an economically viable yield.

Funding Conservation

- Increasing demand for wildlife and wildlife products over the past few decades has been linked to higher levels of income, especially in urban centres.
- The inflated prices that are offered for products such as ivory, horn, bone, fine wools and bush meat have increased pressure on populations of elephant, rhinoceros, tiger, many primates, duikers, antelopes and other wild species. Economists have warned that the trend is bound to continue.
- As the threats to biodiversity have increased, so inevitably the demands on management have risen, and conservation has become steadily more complex and more expensive.

Biodiversity needs to be considered as an equally important issue as climate change. The decline in biodiversity is not just an environmental issue but also an economic, security, moral and ethical issue. The biggest challenge and opportunity lies in changing approach towards development. People need to shift to clean technologies for protecting nature. Ultimately, the world needs to come together to make a global deal to save nature.

- The interlinking will decrease downstream flows resulting in reduction of freshwater inflows into the seas seriously jeopardizing aquatic life.
- Large areas are needed to create canals resulting in deforestation of forests and a considerable population living in these areas must need to be rehabilitated to new areas.
- Fertile deltas will be under threat, with coastal erosion expected to threaten the land and livelihoods of local economies.
- Possibility of new dams comes with the threat of large otherwise habitable or reserved land getting submerged under water or surface water.
- Interlinking of river water may result in polluting clean water by linking with polluted water.
- Changes in water flow and trapping of silt in reservoirs will see a dip in the sediment deposited by rivers.

The necessity and feasibility of river-interlinking should be seen on a case to case basis, with adequate emphasis on easing out federal issues. The government should alternatively consider the National Waterways Project (NWP) which "eliminates" friction between states over the sharing of river waters since it uses only the excess flood water that goes into the sea unutilized.

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UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 06th June-2021

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India today is the world's largest groundwater extractor and most of the largest cities in India are under water stress. Illustrate the reasons for groundwater depletion. Also mention measures need to meet Indian ground water challenge.

Water will determine India's ability to achieve high economic growth, ensure environmental sustainability and improve quality of life for citizens. No single action whether community based, legislation, traditional water harvesting systems, or reliance on market forces will in itself alleviate the crisis in India.

Reasons for groundwater depletion

- Increase in the demand for water for domestic, industrial and agricultural needs and limited surface water resources lead to the over-exploitation of groundwater resources.
- Green Revolution enabled water intensive crops to be grown in drought prone/ water deficit regions, leading to over extraction of groundwater.
- Frequent pumping of water from the ground without waiting for its replenishment leads to quick depletion.
- Subsidies on electricity and high MSP for water intensive crops are also leading reasons for depletion.
- Water contamination as in the case of pollution by landfills, septic tanks, leaky underground gas tanks, and from overuse of fertilizers and pesticides lead to damage and depletion of groundwater resources.
- Inadequate regulation of groundwater laws encourages the exhaustion of groundwater resources without any penalty.
- Unscientific methods of agriculture, chemical effluents from industries, lack of sanitation also lead to pollution of groundwater, making it unusable.

Measures need to meet Indian ground water challenge

- There should be restrictions to cut off the access to groundwater in areas identified as "critical" and "dark zones", where the water table is overused or very low.
- There is a need to restore, conserve and augment all our existing local water bodies.
- Problems and issues such as water logging, salinity, agricultural toxins, and industrial effluents, all need to be properly looked into.
- Technology usage must be advanced.

- Community management of water and formation of water users' associations can lead to success at grassroots level.
- Research and scientific evaluations should be done before forming any policy.
- Water depletion can be controlled by reducing electricity subsidies.
- Another way of efficiently using groundwater is by encouraging farmers to adopt micro-irrigation techniques such as drip irrigation and micro-sprinklers. Government has initiated schemes like DRIP programme, more drop per crop, Krishi Sinchai Yojana to ensure economical water use practices in agriculture.
- Creating regulatory options at the community level such as panchayat is also one among the feasible solutions.
- India needs to radically improve its farm water efficiency, presently amongst the lowest in the world.
- A major cause for India's groundwater crisis is the legal framework that ties up water rights with land rights and allows landowners to extract unlimited groundwater.
- Traditional methods of water conservation should be encouraged to minimize the depletion of water resources.
- Artificial recharge of tube wells, water reuse, afforestation, scientific methods of agriculture should also be done.

To be a water secure India, our ability to manage and govern our water resources efficiently will determine our ability to grow and prosper.

UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 07th June-2021

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Despite the limited progress towards the goals and targets set for the last decade, the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity remains the benchmark guiding global action on biodiversity in the coming years. Suggest measures to place the global community on a path towards realizing the UN 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.

In support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the UN Environment Programme and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre came up to develop a strategy that is expected to feed into the intercessional period for development, negotiation and implementation of the biodiversity framework, whilst also identifying elements that will foster transformational changes to make the 2050 vision a reality.

Measures to place the global community on a path towards realizing the UN 2050 Vision for Biodiversity

- Conserving intact ecosystems, restoring ecosystems, combating and reversing degradation, and employing landscape level spatial planning to avoid, reduce and mitigate land-use change.
- An integrated approach has to be built guaranteeing the water flows, improving water quality, protecting critical habitats, controlling invasive species and safeguarding connectivity to allow the recovery of freshwater systems from mountains to coasts.
- Redesigning agricultural systems through agro ecological and other innovative approaches to enhance productivity while minimizing negative impacts on biodiversity
- Protecting and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems, rebuilding fisheries and managing aquaculture and other uses of the oceans to ensure sustainability, and to enhance food security and livelihoods.
- Deploying 'green infrastructure' and making space for nature within built landscapes to improve the health and quality of life for citizens and to reduce the environmental footprint of cities and infrastructure.
- Employing nature-based solutions, alongside a rapid phase-out of fossil fuel use, to reduce the scale and impacts of climate change.
- Managing ecosystems, including agricultural and urban ecosystems, as well as the use of wildlife, through an integrated approach, to promote healthy ecosystems and healthy people.

There is a need to strengthen coherence, synergies and governance, legal frameworks and enforcement of the rule of law. This could be achieved by: strengthening cooperation with and among developing countries to resolve issues of conflict and migration pressures on biodiversity; addressing human rights issues in relation to indigenous and local communities.

UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 08th June-2021

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Capacity building is an important aspect in mitigating disaster. Examine. Also explain the obstacles faced in capacity building.

Capacity-building is **defined** as the “process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in a fast-changing world.” Capacity building fosters a sense of ownership and empowerment, so that community partners gain greater control over their own future development

Importance of capacity building in disaster preparation:

- India’s capacity to manage disaster risk is challenged by its size and huge population. The country is likely to have the greatest exposure of any nation in the world to extreme weather and natural disasters by 2030.
- Capacity building is an ongoing process that equips officials, stakeholders and the community to perform their functions in a better manner during a crisis/disaster.
- Capacity-building should support the planning and implementation of actions across the full disaster management cycle.
- The primary focus of capacity building is selection and providing training to the people who are capable of planning, coordinating, acting and intervening where necessary.
- With better training local teams would be better prepared and able to respond to local disasters too.

Obstacles faced in capacity building

- Sometimes community partners simply want to get the work done and not spend time on making the changes that are sustainable over time.
- Capacity building requires a longer period of time to achieve and, as a result, does not necessarily lead to an immediate sense of satisfaction.
- Capacity building focuses on sustaining change, which often requires underlying, structural power differences to be addressed. Changing power structures is often more difficult than addressing a symptom caused by the underlying problem.
- it is often difficult to provide evidence of its results or to celebrate its impact.

Since, risk associated with natural disasters cannot be reduced due to the fact that natural disasters are certain to strike, but we can minimize the adverse effect of these disasters

through maximizing our capacity. In other words, our vision should be to maximize our cope up capacity so that vulnerability can be minimized.

UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 09th June-2021

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The risk of industrial disaster has been rising due to Industrialization, thereby showing the need for industrial safety in India. Comment. Also discuss the measures to be taken to strengthen the industrial safety in India.

India's industrial safety record has been patchy at the best of times. Now in the aftermath of the lockdown, it is likely to get further eroded.

Need for Industrial safety in India:

- What happened in Vizag should be considered a warning for other industries which are resuming operations after a lengthy lockdown. India's industrial safety record has been patchy at the best of times.
- Thirty-six years after the Bhopal disaster, it is distressing to see accidents from hazardous industries.
- The fields of occupational and environmental medicine, toxicology, and epidemiology which study and prevent industrial accidents have still not been developed adequately to cater for the amount of industrial development that has occurred in India.
- Reports suggest that the Vizag plant has functioned without proper environmental clearances for a substantial period since it was set up.
- It must also be asked how the South Korean petrochemical giant, which owns LG polymers, the site of the accident, did not ensure that qualified people were in place to check systems and open the plant.
- A majority of accidents that occur in refineries are the result of human error. Oftentimes a worker fails to follow the safety procedures that have been put into place by the company.
- The common reasons for accidents in chemical plants occur are from improper maintenance of equipment. A piece of equipment can ultimately fail and malfunction if it is not properly maintained. This can be very hazardous for the workers who are operating and working around the machine.

Measures needed to strengthen the Industrial safety in India:

- Industries must comply with regulations, and the government must ensure that they are strictly enforced.

- Regular maintenance at scheduled intervals and the manufacturer's recommendations is important to ensure that the equipment runs smoothly and safely.
- Employees should be properly taught on how to operate the equipment in the way it was designed to be used. They should also learn to employ safety procedures when they are operating a piece of equipment.
- Also, employees should be well versed in what to do if something goes wrong so that they can fix it before it gets out of control.

The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2019 should be taken up and put into place immediately as it promotes health, safety, welfare and better working conditions of the workforce by enhancing the ambit of a dynamic legislation as compared to the existing sectoral approach limited to few sectors.

UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 10th June-2021

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Left Wing Extremism is not only a security threat but also a political socio economic challenge. In this context, discuss various measures taken by the government to fight against LWE. Also examine the present dynamics of Maoist Insurgency in India.

LWE organizations are the groups that try to bring change through violent revolution. They are against democratic institutions and use violence to subvert the democratic processes at ground level. These groups prevent the developmental processes in the least developed regions of the country & try to misguide the people by keeping them ignorant of current happenings.

Measures taken by the government to fight against LWE

- Greyhounds
- Operation Green Hunt
- LWE Mobile Tower Project
- Aspirational Districts Programme
- SAMADHAN

Note: students should elaborate on the above measures by sticking to the word limit

Dynamics of Maoist Insurgency in India

- Some sections of the society, especially the younger generation, have romantic illusions about the Maoists, arising out of an incomplete understanding of their ideology. The central theme of Maoist ideology is violence. The Maoist insurgency doctrine glorifies violence as the primary means to overwhelm the existing socio-economic and political structures. The People's Liberation Guerilla Army (PLGA), the armed wing of CPI (Maoist), has been created with this purpose in mind.
- A strident propaganda is also carried out against the purported and real inadequacies of the existing state structure.
- In areas under Maoist domination, the absence of governance becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy since the delivery systems are extinguished through killings and intimidation. This is the first step in the strategy of the Maoists to seek to control the countryside. In the meanwhile, many Front Organisations are created to facilitate mass-mobilisation in semi-urban and urban areas through ostensibly democratic means. Most of the Front Organisations are led by well-educated intellectuals with a firm belief in the Maoist insurgency doctrine.

- They stridently take up issues like 'displacement of tribals', 'corporate exploitation', 'human rights violations' by security forces etc. and often make fantastic claims in this regard which get reported even by the mainstream media. The Front Organisations also skilfully use state structures and legal processes to further the Maoist agenda and weaken the enforcement regime. The important functions of these Organisations include recruitment of 'professional revolutionaries', raising funds for the insurgency, creating urban shelters for underground cadres, providing legal assistance to arrested cadres and mass- mobilisation by agitating over issues of relevance/ convenience.

In a nutshell, the CPI (Maoist), the main LWE outfit in India, aims to overthrow the existing democratic state structure with violence as their primary weapon, and mass mobilization and strategic united fronts as complementary components and plans to usher in So-called 'New Democratic Revolution' in India.

Though the number of incidents of LWE violence has come down in the recent past, continued efforts and focus are needed in eliminating such groups. Government needs to ensure two things; security of the peace-loving people and the development of the naxalism-affected regions.

UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 11th June-2021

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Though the Central Armed Forces has been showing its capability to quickly adapt to various situational requirements there are many challenges that prevent its smooth functioning. Comment. (250 words)

The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) refers to seven security forces in India under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Assam Rifles (AR), Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), National Security Guard (NSG) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). Each of the seven has its own cadre of officers, but they are headed by officers of the Indian Police Service.

Issues in CAPF

- The training institutes for CAPF need to be upgraded.
- The Ministry of home affairs plan to provide financial support to CAPFs for modernisation in areas of arms, clothing, and equipment is time consuming.
- Overdependency of states on CAPF is a notable concern.
- Supply of equipment is not on time.
- The Standing Committee on Home Affairs in the year 2017 observed that personnel of the CAPFs have not been treated at par with the Armed Forces, in terms of pay and allowances.

Measures to overcome these issues

- the government should engage in negotiations with ordnance factories and manufacturers in the public or private sector, to ensure an uninterrupted supply of equipment and other infrastructure.
- States must develop their own systems, and augment their police forces by providing adequate training and equipment.
- cadre review of all the CAPFs should be carried out within a defined timeline.

CAPF services can be seen even in the remotest corners of the country. But there are many issues in CAPF that need to be addressed.

UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 12th June-2021

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Examine the need for integrating the local knowledge of the people with modern technologies to improve disaster risk reduction. What are the challenges posed by it?

Indigenous knowledge systems have existed as part of human life from yesteryear and this practice is important as it has shaped how people interact with their environment. It has been observed that local knowledge and practices to improve disaster risk reduction have grown since the 1970s. As such, this knowledge gained recognition and prominence in the 1990s in the field of disaster risk reduction and in issues associated with climate change. However, despite the recognition of the important role that indigenous knowledge plays in reducing the risk of disasters and adapting to climate change, this knowledge has not featured prominently in disaster policy and science.

The need to mainstream indigenous traditional knowledge and link it with modern technologies:

Local people have certain capacities that have evolved over centuries and this capacity and knowledge have been tested over time and proven to be sustainable and effective in both reducing disasters and managing hazards. · As far as the management of disasters is concerned, communities have also relied on their indigenous knowledge to minimise the impact of disasters. · Those communities that have embraced indigenous knowledge have managed to save lives and property from various types of natural disasters. · For instance, in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, indigenous knowledge helped communities to survive the disaster. · Indigenous knowledge systems present many alternatives to governments, scientists, practitioners and local communities on how they should approach different disasters. · Indigenous knowledge can empower members of a community to take leading roles in activities aimed at reducing disaster risk. · For instance, mixed cropping is a form of indigenous knowledge which can be applied to improve the yield of various crops, so that alternative crops are available for consumption if other crops fail. · A community that possesses vast indigenous knowledge of disaster risk reduction is able to take care of itself and also able to deal with disasters with minimum external support.

Through the use of their indigenous knowledge, people can deal with different kinds of hazards and disasters before the arrival of disaster risk reduction practitioners. · Such knowledge can be used to predict the occurrence of disasters and their impact so that proper interventions are adopted. · According to the UNISDR (2015), the Sendai Framework

for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted by the Third United Nations World Conference, advocates for the use of indigenous peoples' knowledge and practices to complement scientific knowledge in disaster risk assessment. · The framework recognises that indigenous peoples, through their experience and traditional knowledge, provide an important contribution to the development and implementation of plans and mechanisms, including early warning (UNISDR 2015). · Therefore, indigenous knowledge is a vital component of disaster risk reduction.

Challenges: · A lack of clarity of what constitutes indigenous knowledge has not helped its applicability. · Various scholars have differing views of what indigenous knowledge entails. · it is not wholly trusted by many in the communities, as well as disaster risk reduction practitioners. Scepticism by disaster risk reduction practitioners regarding the use of indigenous knowledge arises as a result of the fact that such knowledge lacks documentation. · The uses of indigenous means of survival have not always proved to be sustainable. This suggests that indigenous knowledge may not always be a right intervention for all hazards and disasters affecting human communities. · The knowledge may be wrong or even harmful to people. This implies that at times practices based on indigenous knowledge may exacerbate a community's vulnerability to disasters.

Indigenous knowledge, if given space, would continue to play a significant role for local communities and practitioners in disaster risk reduction. If anything, local people should be enabled to actively participate in decision-making processes at regional, national and local levels.

UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 13th June-2021

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In recent times there has been a lot of political instability in West Asia and North Africa and have become the hub for ISIS terrorists. How should India address this issue with respect to Internal security? (250 words)

The continuing presence of Islamic State (IS) terrorists in West Asia, Africa and elsewhere should be seen as a serious warning by the countries in these regions. More than 10,000 Islamic State fighters are estimated to remain active in Iraq and Syria two years after the militant group's defeat, and their attacks have significantly increased this year, according to reports of the U.N. counter-terrorism chief. The Islamic State extremist group — also known as IS, ISIL and ISIS — has regrouped and its activity has increased not only in conflict zones like Iraq and Syria but also in some regional affiliates.

Impact of ISIS on India

ISIS has been the most lethal, organized and modern terrorist organization who are using social media, internet to propagate their ideology. Its autocracies and pandemonium is well known across the world, especially in the Middle East. However, India has not been affected by ISIS barring few sporadic incidents. Few Indian youth, after being influenced and hypnotized by the structured propaganda of ISIS, have joined ISIS forces in Iraq and Syria. In addition to this, Mehdi Masroor was operating the twitter handle of ISIS from Bangalore in India. Apart from all these, India has neither faced any violent assault nor any lone-wolf attack on its land by ISIS. However, ISIS wants to attack India and convert it into Islamic caliphate of Khorasan in future.

India's strategy towards ISIS

The ISIS can become the fulcrum of terrorism against India, thereby focusing the combined energy of different groups under its umbrella.

It can be supported by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), thereby providing it a well-established intelligence and logistic network, in a symbiotic relationship. · The social media campaign by ISIS is ideally placed to exploit alienated members of the society. This has already been witnessed to a lesser degree, in which a small number of people have volunteered to fight for the terrorist group in Iraq. This can potentially achieve sharper focus if it is brought to bear on Indian targets, especially in the immediate aftermath of communally surcharged incidents. · While India may be amongst the most challenging

targets for a radical organisation like ISIS, given the strong roots of liberalism, democracy and secularism in the country, from the perspective of ISIS, this is a prize which could well tip the balance in its favour, not only in the region but also beyond. This could imply that the resources and energy likely to be employed against India will make the terrorist group amongst the most serious challenges faced by the country so far. · ISIS has foreseen the possibility of the US and its allies standing alongside India. However, past experience suggests limited cooperation by the US against terrorist threats specifically aimed at the country. It is more likely that it will be India's fight for its safety and security on the basis of its resilience and capacity. · An e-book allegedly released by Islamic State (ISIS) across online jihadist platforms has made a direct reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, describing him as "a right-wing Hindu nationalist who worships weapons and is preparing his people for a future war against Muslims".

Repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration and the protection of the vulnerable have become ever more urgent.

UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 14th June-2021

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Recently coordinated social engineering attacks are in the news. Examine the implication of such attacks. How far is India prepared in facing such cyber security challenges?

Coordinated Social engineering attack – Social engineering is an attack vector that relies heavily on human interaction and often involves manipulating people into breaking normal security procedures and best practices in order to gain access to systems, networks or physical locations, or for financial gain.

Cyber criminals are using innovative social engineering techniques through spam, phishing and social networking sites to steal sensitive user information to conduct various crimes, ranging from abuse to financial frauds to cyber espionage.

Implication of such attacks

Today, 'social engineering' is one of the most prevalent social media threats and also the most popular tactic for cyber criminals. Social media platforms allow attackers to find personal information that can be used to target specific individuals. Using information from employee profiles, a plausible fake account can be created to establish trust over time. Once the trust is built, the attacker might start asking for specific information, like internal server names, project names, or even have the new friend open an infected document or visit a prepared website that will drop a backdoor onto their computer. Eg: The recent case of BrahMoS Engineer being lured by Pakistan's ISI.

India's preparedness for Cyber security:

- Information Technology Act, 2000: The act regulates use of computers, computer systems, computer networks and also data and information in electronic format.
- Strategies under National Cyber Policy, 2013 § Creating a secure cyber ecosystem and creating mechanisms for security threats and responses to the same through national systems and processes.
- § National Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) functions as the nodal agency for coordination of all cyber security efforts, emergency responses, and crisis management.
- § Securing e-governance by implementing global best practices, and wider use of Public Key Infrastructure.
- § Protection and resilience of critical information infrastructure with the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) operating as the nodal agency.
- Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative: It was launched in 2018 with an aim to spread awareness about cybercrime and building capacity for safety measures for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and frontline IT

staff across all government departments. · National Cyber Security Coordination Centre (NCCC): In 2017, the NCCC was developed. Its mandate is to scan internet traffic and communication metadata (which are little snippets of information hidden inside each communication) coming into the country to detect real-time cyber threats. · Cyber Swachhata Kendra: In 2017, this platform was introduced for internet users to clean their computers and devices by wiping out viruses and malware. · International cooperation: Looking forward to becoming a secure cyber ecosystem, India has joined hands with several developed countries like the United States, Singapore, Japan, etc. These agreements will help India to challenge even more sophisticated cyber threats.

Cyber awareness must be spread and there should be a multi-stakeholder approach- technological inputs, legal inputs, strengthening law enforcements, systems and then dealing with trans-border crime involves a lot of international cooperation.

UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 15th June-2021

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From the last 5-6 years insurgency in the North-east region is declining. What are the reasons for decline and what steps can be taken to curb insurgency in that region.(250 words)

Insurgency is a term historically restricted to rebellious acts that did not reach the proportions of an organized revolution. It has subsequently been applied to any such armed uprising, typically guerrilla in character, against the recognized government of a state or country.

Reasons for decline

- Security relations with myanmar and bangladesh (where insurgence used to refuge for shelter) helped to cut insurgency
- Talks with the insurgent groups resulted in decline of violence
- Local population got fed up with the violence going on for years and the popularity of the leaders of insurgent groups also declined with time.
- Government forces and its intelligence units have been able to play one group against the other and dismantle the unity of insurgent groups.

Steps to curb insurgency

- Comprehensive geographical connectivity is key to the development of NorthEast states.
- The centre and the state government should identify all the groups small and big and deal with them so that the insurgency doesn't sprung up again.
- A sense of belongingness should be encouraged among the local population and a sense of pride should be inculcated in them for their contributions made to India

The success of peace agreements should be evaluated more on socio-economic outcomes than in terms of military outcome. The sense that political aspirations could be achieved through violence has to be continuously discouraged. For this the political empowerment of the Northeast States has to be done and the good governance should penetrate to the grass root levels.

UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 16th June-2021

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From the last 5-6 years insurgency in the North-east region is declining. What are the reasons for decline and what steps can be taken to curb insurgency in that region.

Insurgency is a term historically restricted to rebellious acts that did not reach the proportions of an organized revolution. It has subsequently been applied to any such armed uprising, typically guerrilla in character, against the recognized government of a state or country.

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UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 17th June-2021

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The piracy in Indian ocean region became a major threat to the Indian security. Examine. Discuss various steps taken to counter piracy in this region by Indian government. Are the counter piracy efforts successful?

The piracy threat in the Indian Ocean region was primarily recognized in 2008 by United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution for counter-piracy operations

Under article 101 of UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, piracy is defined as: "Any acts of violence, detention, or depredation committed on the high seas by the crew or passengers of a private ship or aircraft against another ship, aircraft, persons, or property in a place outside the jurisdiction of any state for private ends."

The Indian Ocean is the third largest water body of the world that has vital sea lanes of communication crisscrossing it and which feeds Asia's largest economies. It is a major conduit for international trade, especially energy. Its littoral is vast, densely populated, and comprises some of the world's fastest growing regions. The piracy in this region became a major threat to India as it became an internal and border security challenge.

Steps taken to counter piracy in Indian ocean region by Indian government

- Escort and protection: The Indian Navy commenced anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden from 2008.
 - o Indian Naval and Coast Guard ships have also been deployed in piracy prone areas nearer the Indian coast. Around 1000 plus ships of various nationalities have been escorted and more than 40 piracy attacks prevented by Indian forces till date.
 - o The Director General Shipping has launched a web-based registration service where merchant ships can register with DG Shipping in order to avail of the escort facility provided by Indian Naval ships in the Gulf of Aden.
- Global coordination: By participating in the multilateral for a setup to combat piracy.
 - o India is an active participant of various mechanisms like "Shared Awareness and Deconfliction (SHADE)" that have been established to facilitate sharing of information.

o India, Japan and China (all three nations operate independently) have agreed to coordinate patrols thereby ensuring an effective and optimum use of the combined maritime assets to escort ships, especially in the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor established for use by all merchant ships in the Gulf of Aden.

Counter piracy efforts successful

In the recent past, there have been notable successes in counter-piracy efforts in the Indian Ocean Region. But the root cause of piracy problem i.e. poverty, lack of employment opportunities as well as a lack of legal, governance and maritime infrastructure have not been adequately addressed.

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UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 18th June-2021

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Discuss various government measures to reduce Naxalism. Examine various loopholes that are preventing effective implementation of government strategies.

Naxalism is a term used to define violent activities on behalf of landless labourers and tribal people against landlords and others by some individuals and groups.

Measures taken by the government to reduce Naxalism

- SAMADHAN – stands for Smart leadership, Aggressive strategy, Motivation and training, actionable intelligence, Dashboard Based KPIs (key performance indicators) and KRAs (key result areas), Harnessing technology, an Action plan for each theatre, and No access to financing.
- Police Modernization Scheme in areas affected by Naxal movements.
- Mine Protected Vehicles (MPV) to reduce the number of casualties due to use of IED by the Naxalites.
- Augmenting the strength of Central Armed Police Forces
- Establishment of National Security Guard (NSG) hubs at Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Mumbai;
- Strengthening and re-organizing of Multi-Agency Centre to enable it to function on 24×7 basis
- Sanctioning of new Specialized India Reserve Battalions (SIRB).
- Special Infrastructure Scheme for funds to the States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha to raise Special Task Force to combat LWE.
- Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 has been amended to strengthen the punitive measures.
- Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme: Under this the central Govt. reimburses security related expenditure to the LWE affected state Governments.
- Civic Action Programme – To bridge the gaps between Security Forces and local people through personal interaction and bring the human face of SFs before the local population.
- Media Plan: Under the scheme activities like Tribal Youth Exchange programmes organised by NYKS, radio jingles, documentaries, pamphlets etc. are being conducted.
- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) – offers tremendous opportunities for rural road connectivity.

- National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) is being implemented in 330 districts affected by Naxalism so as to universalize the demand-driven programme for wage-employment.
- Bharat Nirman, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and other income generating and social security schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development, Agriculture, Panchayati Raj and Tribal affairs.
- Aspirational District: Monitoring of Aspirational districts programme in 35 LWE affected districts.

Various loopholes that are preventing effective implementation of government strategies

- Weak coordination between the States affected – States (both affected and non-affected) restrict their efforts to the defined political boundaries instead of walking the extra mile for better synergy and coordination.
- Inefficient Delivery of Governance – Still, basic and essential services, justice delivery, community participation among others remain elusive to most of the Naxal affected areas of our country.
- Trust Deficit – Locals, especially in Naxal affected areas, are still sceptical and insecure regarding the intentions of the government and security forces. Their engagement is imperative in dealing with the naxal menace.
- Inability to Maintain Created Assets – This weakens the position of both the government and the security forces deployed as it hampers the trust of locals, disrupts channels of communication etc.
- Ineffective Democratic Decentralisation – Half hearted and weak ground implementation of PESA, provisions of the sixth & fifth schedule and even PRIs has definitely helped in not containing the problem.
- Poor Forest Governance – Continuous weakening of forest governance laws and related rights of dwellers as evidenced through recent draft India forest Act and the decision of eviction of forest dwellers by SC has made meaningful engagement difficult & uncertain.
- Unutilized potential of corporates, media and civil society – To ensure effective reach of benefits to the naxal affected areas it is essential to rope in all sections of society. Media and Corporates though can play a transformative role have not been leveraged yet.
- Absence of Co-ordinated Proactive Vigilance – Weak coordination between central and state agencies results in the development of security voids captured subsequently by naxals.
- Passive Role of State Police Forces – State police forces have usually not been in the frontline despite of them being well acquainted with the terrain, local community etc.

- Role of External States – Role of neighbours and even terrorist organisations has been established through several reports in fueling naxalism in India through supply of finances and arms by leveraging porous and poorly managed border areas.
- Weak Local Intelligence Gathering – Weakest link in our strategy so far has been timely collection of intelligence and its efficient dissemination.
- Rise of Urban Naxalism – Ideological supporters in the urban areas and at key positions have not only fueled but also have helped naxalism in attaining an organised structure.
- Inability to Curb Terror Financing – Any act of violence cannot be sustained without finance. Demonetisation though attempted failed to check it comprehensively.
- Inadequate Technological Interventions – Use of drones, mini UAVs, ground sensors, smart guns and artificial intelligence have not been aggressively deployed in naxal areas.
- Standard Operating Procedures – All major naxal attacks have been possible owing to failure of effective implementation of SoPs. In the recent attack in Dantewada (C.G), it was emerged that the troops did not follow SoPs.

III Conceived Decisions – The unceasing requisitioning of paramilitary forces for the elections in West Bengal weakened the security grid around Maharashtra's Maoist heartland that led to Gadchiroli attack.

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The digital age not only brought a complete change in the way we view and experience the world but also raised the importance of cyber security. In this light discuss the need for a renovated cyber security strategy for India. (150 words)

Cyber Security refers to protecting cyber space including critical information infrastructure from attack, damage, misuse and economic espionage. Cyber security is a broad spectrum phrase and relates to preventing any form of unauthorized and malafide access to a personal computer, a laptop, a smartphone or a major network like the national banking system or the railway network or a national information technology asset that also has military implications.

Need for a renovated cyber security strategy for India

With the vision of a trillion-dollar digital component, accounting for one-fifth of the \$5-trillion national economy, the importance of cyberspace in India would only keep growing as Indians have taken to mobile broadband like fish to water, driven by affordable tariffs, low-cost smartphones and a spurt in availability of audio-visual content in Indian languages.

Financial services, payments, health services, etc are all connected to digital mediums; and thanks to Corona, this is expected to increase.

CERT-IN has recently issued an advisory that there is a threat of a massive phishing attack.

India was one of the few countries to launch a cybersecurity policy in 2013, not much has transpired in terms of a coordinated cyber approach.

- Unlike the US, Singapore, and the UK where there is a single umbrella organization dealing in cybersecurity, India has 36 different central bodies—most ministries have their own—that deal with cyber issues, and each has a different reporting structure; each state government has its own CERT.
- Add to this the fact that while the National Cyber Security Strategy 2020 was to devise a cyber readiness roadmap for organisations and the government for cyber-readiness, this is yet to be announced.
- India is not even a signatory to some of the basic international frameworks on Cybersecurity like the Convention of Cybercrime of the Council of Europe which not only European nations but Japan, US, South Africa have become signatories to, except India.
- Indian laws are not in tandem with the ever-changing global cyberspace.
- The laws are old and hence need to be more dynamic in nature to deal with issues like cyber-espionage, data theft and so on.

- The Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act 2000) is the sole law that deals with cyberspace in India and was passed way back in 2000.
- Also, the Cyber Law of India has been subject to amendments on various occasions but hasn't served the changing dynamics and the growing threats and manifestations of cyberwar.
- Government and the private sector jointly have to give cyber security some priority in their security and risk management plan.

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UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 20th June-2021

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Mass media in recent years has helped sensitise people most effectively through forewarning and coverage of natural disasters. Examine the importance of media role in disaster management in India.

Disaster is a sudden, calamitous event bringing great damage, loss, and destruction and devastation to life and property. The damage caused by disasters is immeasurable and varies with the geographical location, climate and the type of the earth surface/degree of vulnerability. This influences the mental, socio-economic, political and cultural state of the affected area. The media forges a direct link between the public and emergency organizations and plays a very important role in disseminating vital information to the public before, during and after disasters.

- The media, by communicating the information to the people and the concerned authorities sufficiently in advance, can enable them to take the necessary steps to prevent and minimize the loss of life and property.
- The media could play an important role in raising public awareness and education for effective response to natural hazards through television and radio programs.
- During the onslaught of the disaster, what is of utmost importance is to keep the morale of the people high, to create self-confidence in them, to prevent panic and to maintain order by assuring and making available the necessary help readily and quickly.
- Media can also help in mobilizing resources, financial aid and volunteers from around the world.
- Assist the government and the non-governmental organizations providing relief supplies to the people.
- Boosting the morale of the afflicted and those engaged in relief operations during any disaster is of primary importance.
- It can help in disseminating information about survivors, diseased and affected people to the families elsewhere and world around. especially the social media can help in this with technological inventions like i am safe marker by Facebook and google
- Reporting genuine facts with constructive criticism by the media would greatly help in restoring the order.
- In addition, the specific appeal made for relief through the columns and the time-slots of the media, brings in sizable aid in the requisite form.

“Quick, Reliable and Accurate (QRA)” are three essential keywords for disaster related information. The media play a unique role in disaster mitigation. Although the aims of the

media and those of disaster mitigation organizations are not synonymous, without compromising the independence and integrity of either, much can be done to communicate to the public the information that will help many save their own lives.

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UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 21th June-2021

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Cyberspace is a global common. Explain. Also discuss the challenges to Cyberspace as a global common.

Cyberspace and global common

Cyberspace spans the entire globe almost seamlessly.

- The national assets have to be part of the cyberspace, the global commons, to derive benefits of connectivity-global e-commerce, email, funds transfer, stock trading, and other relations for business and trade; social networking that is spawning global communities, and changing the way people keep in touch with their families and friends.
- Cyberspace is indeed a global common, albeit of a new kind, since it is man-made.
- It facilitates the transfer of data and information rather than people, vessels, and goods; it is largely owned by the private sector.
- But it's a national asset too, since it enables a host of business and government services to citizens; critical infrastructure depends on it for its efficient operations.
- In fact, economies of advanced nations almost entirely depend upon it.
- The attacks on these systems can come from anywhere in the world, because cyberspace is borderless.
- That's what makes cyberspace a unique global common, with every piece belonging to some company, organization, or individual as part of a national ICT asset.

Challenges to Cyberspace as a global common

- Recent cyber-attacks by organized criminals, non-state actors, and even nation-states have underlined the threat scenario.
- Sensitive country information including defence secrets, embassies' correspondence; intellectual property comprising R&D of several companies based on years of efforts worth billions of dollars; penetration of critical infrastructures; use of cyberspace by terrorists, by nation-states through non-state actors have raised the spectre of a silent net-centric war-in what is known as cyber warfare.
- Cyberspace has emerged as the new domain-beyond land, sea, air and space-that has to be factored by nations in their national defence strategies and plans. Cyberspace commons, therefore must have rules of the road.
- Cyberspace is anarchic today since there is no formal governance regime. Market based governance that includes people, groups, and governments around the world

has produced a flexible and effective global network of networks. But its regulation is complicated by several features.

- Cyberspace is asymmetric, and offense dominant, provides anonymity because of difficulties in attribution-with implications for bringing criminals to justice and for deterrence and reprisal in the battle space.
- Silent, undetected attacks by non-state actors-criminals and terrorists-and by nation-states for cyber espionage, and disruption of critical infrastructures to cripple economies and spread disorder-are a reality.

Since the cyberattacks respect no borders, it is thus essential to bring the international community together to ensure peace and security in the digital space. In such a scenario, shared rules and norms become imperative.

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UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 22nd June-2021

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Cyberspace is a global common. Explain. Also discuss the challenges to Cyberspace as a global common. (150 words)

Cyberspace and global common

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UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 23rd June-2021

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Examine various government initiatives against cyberbullying on women. Are they sufficient?(150 words)

Cyberbullying is defined by PK Smith et al. as an “aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual, using electronic forms of contact, repeatedly and over time against a victim who cannot easily defend himself or herself.” Most definitions of bullying rely upon three criteria; intent to harm, imbalance of power, and repetition of the act. COVID-19 has exacerbated the challenges that women face. The National Commission for Women has reported a surge in domestic violence and cybercrimes, which has made girls and women more vulnerable as they struggle to fight another pandemic of violence and abuse inside their homes and online.

Cyber bullying is seen through below instances

Cyber bullying can occur through SMS, Text, and apps, or online in social media, forums, or gaming where people can view, participate in, or share content.

- It includes sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, or mean content about someone else.
- It can include sharing personal or private information about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation.
- Some cyber bullying crosses the line into unlawful or criminal behaviour.

Government Initiatives against Cyberbullying:

Guidelines by NCERT: Because of lack of awareness about cyber bullying among the children’s, teachers as well as the parents, NCERT came up with three guideline booklets one for teachers one for school and one for students. For students it’s in the form of DO’s & DON’Ts. · The Government of India has come up with a ministry of home affairs Cybercrime reporting portal gov.in. · For generating awareness in the state of Delhi, Delhi police has come up with an initiative in which Police visits school administration to get aware of cyberbullying and also engage workshops for computer teachers.

Though there are many government initiatives there is much need to do with cyber bullying because of its challenges. Hence the government measures are not sufficient and more steps have to be taken to prevent cyber bullying

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UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 24th June-2021

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Overabundance of information in social media makes it difficult for people to identify truthful and trustworthy sources from false or misleading ones. What initiatives and measures can be taken to control false information on social media?

The term "social media" refers to internet-based applications that enable people to communicate and share resources and information. While they have enabled faster communication, there are many challenges, of which information hygiene is the most important. We live in an age of info emic, where there is a lot of data to consume; but at the same time the veracity of claims made by the information is not factually true. This leads to fake news and mass hysteria.

Initiatives and measures can be taken to control false information on social media

- The social media conglomerate has also launched a content oversight board, which will be able to overturn decisions by the company and Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg on whether individual pieces of content should be allowed on Facebook and Instagram.
- Google has launched its Google News Initiative to help journalism thrive in the digital age.
- The world's biggest social media companies, including Facebook, Google, Twitter and Byte Dance, are exploring an industry-wide alliance to curb fake news on their platforms in India.
- The proposed alliance — to be named the Information Trust Alliance (ITA) — will be a grouping of digital platforms and publishers, fact checkers, civil society and academia that will aim to control the spread of harmful content, including fake news and hate speech.
- Facebook has announced that it currently has over 500 full-time employees and at least 3,500 external contractors who focus on election work, on top of the 30,000 people across the company focused on safety and security issues.
 - Coordinated attempts to amplify and spread misleading and false information sometimes seem to emanate from major political parties and activists who support them. Election Commission of India must tie up with tech companies to identify the creator of such news.
 - Educating the end-users to be more discerning consumers of news by informing them of verification tools so that they can ascertain the accuracy of a news item before sharing it.

- The Press Council of India, a regulatory body, can warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency, the editor or the journalist or disapprove the conduct of the editor or the journalist if it finds that a newspaper or a news agency has violated journalistic ethics.
- A better and more effective approach to limit the influence of hoaxes on WhatsApp and other platforms is to increase media literacy.
- The government should bring out a policy framework on the possible harm due to the internet messaging platforms to engage at a deeper level.

The Government of India could partner with local news groups to further educate citizens on how to identify real news from fake news.

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UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 25th June-2021

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Critically analyses the recent government move to strengthen the military presence at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (ANI).

The Galwan valley face-off with China has rendered many Indian security experts mooted the idea of balancing China in the maritime domain. In this context, strengthening military presence at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (ANI) remains very critical for India.

Significance of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are located at the juncture of the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea.
- It is a group of 572 islands, which straddles some of the busiest trade routes in the world.
- ANI spans 450 nautical miles in a roughly north-south configuration adjacent to the western entrance to the Malacca Strait, which is itself a major Indian Ocean chokepoint.
- Geopolitically, the ANI connects South Asia with South-East Asia. While the northernmost point of the archipelago is only 22 nautical miles from Myanmar, the southernmost point, Indira Point, is a mere 90 nautical miles from Indonesia.
- The islands dominate the Bay of Bengal, the Six Degree and the Ten Degree Channels that more than sixty thousand commercial vessels traverse each year.
- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands constitute just 0.2% of India's landmass but provide near 30% of its Exclusive Economic Zone.

Concerns with the move

- A section of India's diplomatic community has opposed militarizing the ANI, arguing that turning ANI into a strategic-military garrison would militarize the littoral states and disrupt Indian ocean as a zone of peace.
- Military infrastructure projects could devastate the fragile ecology of the ANI.

If India pushes for greater military presence in the ANI, China could well seek military access in its friendly countries in Indian ocean.

However, the strategic development of the ANI is not a straightforward choice for India's defense and foreign policy establishments. Therefore, India must conduct a cost-benefit analysis before going for militarization of ANI.

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UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 26th June-2021

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What is Bio- terrorism ? What is the need for bio-terrorism law in India? Discuss various measures taken by India and at International level to counter it.

[Bioterrorism](#) is a planned and deliberate use of pathogenic strains of microorganisms. such as bacteria, viruses, or their toxins to spread life-threatening diseases on a mass scale in order to devastate the population of an area.

Need for Bio terrorism law in India

- India's high vulnerability: High population density, Inadequate medical facilities, subtropical climatic conditions, poor hygiene and inadequate sanitation facilities make India extremely susceptible for such attacks.
- Control its impact on society: Bioterrorism causes damage, fear, and anxiety among people and affects the society and government of a country. These biological weapons can cause large-scale mortality and morbidity in large populations and create civil disruption in the shortest possible time. • Increase in attacks due to advancement in technology: In this era of biotechnology and nanotechnology has created an easy accessibility to more sophisticated biologic agents apart from the conventional bacteria, viruses and toxins.

Various measures taken by India and at International level to counter it

Deterrence by law: Structured legislation is an essential element of national preparedness against bioterrorism and for being punished for the act perpetrated.

o For this need to introduce Public Health Bill on the line of Public Health (Prevention, Control and Management of epidemics, bio-terrorism and disasters) Bill-2017, which defined terms epidemic, isolation, quarantine and social distancing, but lapsed.

o Bill also needs to repeal the Epidemic Diseases Act of 1897, which is not specific to biological threat and does not define terms.

- Prevention: This is to be done through examining the risk of bioterror attacks, case studies, prevention of attacks, preparation and training of law enforcement personnel, and the related legal and political framework to reduce opportunity and enhanced intelligence.

- Surveillance and assessment: This can be done by recognizing patterns of non-specific syndromes and assessing them, that could indicate the early manifestations of a biological warfare attack.
- Laboratory investigation: Primary healthcare providers, laboratory staff, are the first responders and will most likely identify the initial cases.

o Hence in conjunction with infection control and administrative personnel should develop both laboratory- and institution-wide response plans for diagnosis and characterization of the biological organism.

- Medical management: It should include preventive, promotive, and curative services like Chemoprevention to prevent the spread of the disease, through identifying the category of population to be given chemoprophylaxis, availability of the requisite quantity of drugs or vaccine; and outline of the mechanism of administration with health infrastructure.
- General public sensitization: This can be done by law enforcing agencies, through training and education, warning networks at hospitals and public health agencies etc.

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UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 28th June-2021

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The recent COVID-19 pandemic has strengthened and accelerated the need of Police to get involved in aspects other than personal security. Examine.

The ongoing health crisis due to [COVID 19](#), coupled with the nationwide lockdown and economic hardships, has created a unique law and order challenge. So, Police which is one of the frontline responders to the pandemic often has to go beyond its call of duty.

Need of police during pandemic

Monitoring and Enforcement:

- o Providing temporary quarantine and enforcing home quarantine, social distancing. For Ex. Kasaragode Police followed 'triple-lock' strategy in which police used traditional methods like barricades to restrict movement, human surveillance and app-based tracing and delivery of essentials and medicines.

- o Capacities nurtured over the years like Call Detail Records (CDR Analysis) of the mobile phones of the affected people, along with other cyber forensic tools have been used by the police to trace the contacts from affected persons.

- o Ensuring widespread use of masks and facilitating their distribution.

Public Awareness:

- o Spreading information through various platforms like social media, speakers and dispelling misinformation. Ex: road paintings or coronavirus shaped helmets were used to spread awareness and to show the importance of hygiene.

- Supply chain management: o Issuing e-passes to allow smooth movement of supplies.

- o Using police control room (PCR) vans to facilitate last-mile delivery.

Migrants:

- Support local authorities in transport of stranded migrant workers to community spaces, government schools set up as temporary shelters.
- Distribution of food, disinfecting transportation vehicles, ensuring social distancing at stations etc. • Reopening industries:
 - Facilitate resumption of all kinds of work like construction, agriculture or manufacturing.
 - Support local authorities in conducting spot checks at work sites and enlist the support of Reserve Forces, Home Guards, National Cadet Corps, and other defence or policing forces to manage social distancing and hygiene when work resumes at sites.
- Police Health: Keeping older personnel away from frontline, plan for rotational shifts, maintaining quarantines for sick personnel and procuring and maintaining Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in adequate quantities, including masks, gloves, hand sanitizer.

Pandemic has strengthened the need for more collaborative ways of working and partnerships within and across the public and private sectors, moving towards a more inclusive approach that embeds societal responsibility.

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UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 29th June-2021

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Examine the issues in Indian border management. Also discuss the significance of technology in border management.

Border management is the first line of defense against the movement of terrorists across borders and the illegal cross-border movement of goods and cargo.

Issues in Indian border management

- This porosity of Indian borders facilitates various illegal activities such as smuggling, trafficking of humans, drugs and arms and infiltration.
- Political issues with Bangladesh created political sensitivity along the border.
- Continuous issues with neighboring countries shows the need to strengthen the security forces in the border making border management difficult.
- Lack of critical infrastructure prevent the deployment of hi-tech equipment
- Security forces lack resources this deficiency limits their efficiency

Significance of technology in border management

- For better detection and interception technology have to be integrated with existing systems
- Blockchain technology can help quickly and securely process transactions, it also makes much easier to identify and trace illegitimate trade.
- It will improve intelligence inputs
- It help to detect infiltration via all means

If the borders are safe and stable only then can the country enjoy economic and social prosperity.

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UPSC Civils Daily Mains Question 30th June-2021

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Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 commits member states to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development”. This goal cannot be achieved in an environment of extremism. Do you agree? Describe various developmental issues that led to the spread of extremism in India.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of seventeen pointer targets that all the countries which are members of the UN agreed to work upon for the better future of the country. The SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

As extremism will be a security threat, social challenges, psychological, economic and political concerns. Hence in such an environment the 16th goal of sustainable development cannot be achieved.

- Various developmental issues that led to the spread of extremism in India

Forest Laws

- Rights of primitive forest dwellers were restricted resulting in losing access to land. This resulted in mass resentment leading to extremist activities.
- Land Fragmentation
- Increased small/marginal land holdings and no land reforms, Insecurity, and exploitation of tenants creates unrest which leads to extremism

Encroachment on Common Property Resources-

- Common Property Resources (CPR's) include community pastures, watershed drainages, village tanks etc. and are vital for rural areas to develop.
- CPR's contribute effectively to the rural economy and provide sustenance to local communities.
- But due to industrialization, privatization and development projects, the CPRs area is shrinking and this also increases resentment of villagers.

Displacement due to developmental projects

- Displacement/ forced eviction of people occur due to developmental projects such as irrigation, industrial projects, mining projects, power plants etc. It can be physical, emotional or cultural.

- Tribal people are most prone to displacement because tribal areas are rich in mineral resources such as Orissa, Jharkhand. This imparts multidimensional trauma on them leading to serious consequences.

Tourism-

- Tourism industry in this development scenario is posing a great threat to the existing cultural-economy-governance matrix of tribal life which is interwoven with ecology.
- The introduction of foreign influence and commercialization is triggering the process of disintegration of tribal society leading to extremist activities.

Government should work with faith-based organizations and religious leaders to counter the abuse of religion by extremists.