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MCQs

THE HINDU

Youth power, an electoral force still in the making

Prelims : General Studies Paper I

Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Mains: General Studies 2

Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Why in Focus?

- India's **youth**, particularly **Generation Z**, is receiving increasing political attention amid concerns over **employment, education, accountability and electoral participation**.

Key Highlights

- Political parties, governments, think tanks and media organisations are increasingly engaging with issues concerning **India's youth**.
- Political leaders are using **digital platforms and youth-oriented communication** to connect with **Generation Z**.
- Governments have introduced schemes covering **employment, entrepreneurship, skill development, education, internships, sports and volunteering**.
- The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** focuses on **quality learning, innovation and youth empowerment**.

- The proposed **National Youth Policy 2026** seeks to prepare people aged **15-29 years** for the **digital age**.
- There is a **gap in understanding Gen Z and Gen A**, who increasingly demand **accountability**.
- Around **8.7 crore people aged 15-29** are outside **education, employment and training**.
- The gap between **formal education and job opportunities** remains a major challenge.
- India has the **largest youth population in the world**, with around **65% of its population below 35 years**.
- About **23% of India's electorate** belongs to the **18-29 age group**.
- Despite their numerical strength, young people have not yet emerged as a **unified electoral bloc**.
- Caste, community, class and gender identities** continue to play a stronger role in shaping electoral behaviour.
- Youth across different States face **different social and economic realities**, making political consolidation difficult.

Implications

- The growing gap between **education and employment** can increase youth frustration and political mobilisation.
- Young people could become an increasingly important electoral force, particularly in **closely contested elections**.



- However, the **diverse experiences of young people** make a unified “youth vote” unlikely.

Way Forward

- Bridge the gap between **education, skills and employment opportunities**.
- Develop policies that address the **diverse aspirations and challenges** of young people across regions.
- Strengthen **electoral literacy and informed political participation** among youth.
- Encourage greater **youth representation and candidature** in electoral politics.

Mains Question

Q. India's large youth population represents both a demographic opportunity and a significant policy challenge. Examine why youth have not yet emerged as a consolidated electoral bloc and discuss the measures needed to translate their demographic potential into meaningful economic and political participation. (250 words).

For newborns, the answer is hospital plus home

Prelims: General Studies Paper 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies 2

Issue relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Why in Focus?

- The **deaths of three newborns in a fire at Amravati Government Women's Hospital in August 2026** highlight a recurring problem of newborn deaths in government hospitals and the need to address systemic weaknesses in neonatal care.

Key Highlights

- **Institutional deliveries** have increased significantly, from 39% in 2005-06 to 90% in 2023-24, improving access to skilled medical care.

- This rise has **also increased pressure on public hospitals and neonatal care units**.
- **Sick newborns treated in public Special Newborn Care Units (SNCUs)** increased from 11.3 lakh in 2021-22 to 14.45 lakh in 2023-24, a 28% rise.
- **Overcrowding is a major challenge**, as government hospitals increasingly receive **premature, low-birth-weight and critically ill newborns** referred from smaller health facilities.
- The **Gadchiroli field trial showed that trained Community Health Workers (CHWs)** could provide effective Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC).
- The **programme achieved a 62.2% reduction in neonatal mortality** in the rural study area.
- The **model focused on identifying infections, promoting breastfeeding and warmth**, and caring for low-birth-weight and premature babies.
- Around 8 lakh ASHAs have been trained to provide HBNC, based partly on the principles developed through the Gadchiroli experience.

Implications

- **Overcrowded neonatal units can reduce the quality and safety** of care.
- **Shortages of trained staff, equipment and beds can make it difficult** to provide individualised newborn care.
- **Fire, electrical and oxygen-system risks can turn neonatal units into dangerous environments**.
- **Weak infection control and emergency preparedness can increase** preventable newborn deaths.

Way Forward

- **Expand Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC) through adequately trained and supervised ASHAs** to reduce unnecessary pressure on SNCUs.
- **Strengthen hospitals with adequate doctors, nurses, equipment, oxygen, electricity and backup systems**.
- **Make neonatal units fire- and disaster-safe through detection systems, evacuation drills**



and regular safety audits.

- **Maintain strict infection-prevention and control measures** in newborn-care units.
- **Adopt a “hospital plus home” approach, where critically ill babies receive hospital care** while stable newborns receive appropriate care at home.

Mains Question

“Institutional delivery is only the first step towards reducing neonatal mortality. Discuss the challenges in India’s newborn-care system and examine how a ‘hospital plus home’ approach can improve neonatal health outcomes.” (250 Words)

Why accessible rehabilitation is the need of the hour in India

Prelims: General Studies Paper 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies 2

Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Why in Focus?

- **Saving a life is only the first step; ensuring recovery and independence through accessible rehabilitation** is equally important.
- **Limited access to physiotherapy, especially in rural and low-income communities,** leaves many patients without proper rehabilitation after illnesses, injuries and surgeries.

Key Highlights

- **Rehabilitation is an essential part of healthcare, particularly after stroke, heart disease, surgery, injuries** and neurological conditions.
- **India has a shortage of physiotherapists, with services concentrated mainly in cities** and private healthcare facilities.
- **Lack of nearby rehabilitation services creates travel costs, loss of working days and financial hardship** for low-income families.

- **Without proper rehabilitation, prolonged immobility can lead to contractures, stiffness and loss of mobility** and independence.
- **India’s growing burden of non-communicable diseases,** especially stroke and heart disease, is **increasing the need for physiotherapy services.**

Implications

- **Shortage and unequal distribution of physiotherapists limits access** to rehabilitation.
- **Rural and underserved communities** often **lack nearby physiotherapy services.**
- **High travel and treatment costs can force low-income families to discontinue** rehabilitation.
- **Lack of awareness and inadequate post-hospital rehabilitation support** can prevent patients from fully recovering.

Way Forward

- **Integrate physiotherapy and rehabilitation into Ayushman Bharat and primary healthcare services** to improve accessibility.
- **Strengthen Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) to provide basic rehabilitation** and physiotherapy services at the community level.
- **Promote community-based rehabilitation (CBR) to reach rural and underserved populations.**
- **Expand tele-rehabilitation under India’s growing digital health infrastructure for follow-ups** and exercise guidance.
- **Implement the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD) with stronger rehabilitation services** for stroke, heart disease and other NCDs.

Mains Question

“Saving a patient’s life is only the first step; enabling recovery and independence is equally important. Discuss the challenges of rehabilitation services in India and suggest measures to make physiotherapy accessible to all.” (250 Words)



The gap in manufacturing sector GVA

Prelims: General Paper 1

Current events of national and international importance.

Mains: General studies 3

Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

Why in Focus?

- The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** estimates India's manufacturing **Gross Value Added (GVA)** at **₹38.6 lakh crore** in 2023-24. However, estimates using other official surveys give a much lower figure. This has raised questions about **how manufacturing GVA is calculated**.

Gross Value Added (GVA) measures the **value added by producers to goods and services** in an economy or sector. $GVA = \text{Value of output} - \text{Intermediate inputs}$

For example, a **bakery** buys flour and other ingredients for **₹500** and sells the finished bread for **₹1,000**. So, $GVA = ₹1,000 - ₹500 = ₹500$. This ₹500 is the **value added by the bakery** through production, labour, machinery, etc.

Key Highlights

- Manufacturing in India has two main parts. The **organised sector** includes registered factories and companies, while the **unorganised sector** includes small factories, workshops and household businesses.
- The government mainly uses two surveys to measure these sectors. The **Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)** covers factories, while the **Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE)** covers small and informal businesses.
- When the GVA from ASI and ASUSE is added, manufacturing GVA for 2023-24 comes to about **₹27.4 lakh crore**. But the NSO's official estimate is **₹38.6 lakh crore**. Thus, there is a **40.9% difference**.
- Employment data also raises questions. The **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**

estimates that **697.5 lakh people** worked in manufacturing in 2023-24. But ASI and ASUSE together account for only **532.9 lakh workers**. About **164.6 lakh workers** are therefore **not fully captured** by these surveys.

- If the possible contribution of these missing workers and companies is added, the estimated manufacturing GVA rises from **₹27.4 lakh crore to about ₹31 lakh crore**.
- However, this is still below the official figure of **₹38.6 lakh crore**. A gap of about **₹7.6 lakh crore, or 19.7%**, remains unexplained. This is the main statistical concern.
- The gap mainly arises from differences in **data sources and estimation methods**.

Implications

- A large gap between different official datasets raises questions about the **accuracy and credibility of GDP and GVA estimates**.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the **total monetary value of all final goods and services produced within a country during a specific period**, usually one year.
 $GDP = GVA + \text{Taxes} - \text{Subsidies}$

- Differences in survey definitions, coverage and data collection methods can create inconsistencies in estimating manufacturing output.
- The use of **MCA-21 corporate data** may provide wider coverage, but the methodology used to scale up this data needs greater transparency.
- Inaccurate manufacturing estimates can affect **industrial policy, investment decisions, employment planning and economic policymaking**.
- The difficulty of measuring small and informal enterprises shows the continuing challenge of capturing India's **informal economy**.
- Lack of publicly available data and methodology makes **independent verification and statistical scrutiny** difficult.

Way Forward

- The NSO should make the **data sources, assumptions and estimation methodology** more transparent.



- ASI, ASUSE, PLFS and Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA-21) data should be better harmonised to improve **consistency and comparability**.
- Regular **independent review and statistical audits** can help identify errors and improve the quality of national accounts.
- Surveys should improve coverage of **small, informal and non-factory manufacturing units**.
- India should strengthen **statistical transparency, data quality and institutional credibility** while following internationally accepted statistical practices.

Mains Question

The reliability of national income statistics is essential for effective economic policymaking. Discuss the concerns surrounding India's manufacturing GVA estimates and suggest measures to improve the credibility of official statistics. (15 marks, 250 words)

KEYWORDS

Bar Council of India (BCI)

- The Bar Council of India (BCI) is a statutory body established under the **Advocates Act, 1961** to regulate the legal profession and legal education in India.
- It consists of the **Attorney-General of India and Solicitor-General of India**, along with one elected representative from each State Bar Council.
- The **BCI prescribes standards of professional conduct and etiquette for advocates and exercises** disciplinary jurisdiction.
- It **lays down standards for legal education and recognises law degrees/universities** for enrolment as advocates.
- It **conducts the All India Bar Examination (AIBE) and issues the Certificate of Practice** to successful candidates.

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)

- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme, launched on 12 April 2005 under the National Health Mission (NHM)** by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- It **aims to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality by promoting institutional deliveries**, particularly among vulnerable groups such as SC/ST and Below Poverty Line households.
- **ASHA workers act as key community-level facilitators by creating awareness, supporting antenatal care** and facilitating institutional deliveries.
- **States are classified into Low Performing States (LPS) and High Performing States (HPS) based on institutional-delivery rates**, with higher incentives in LPS.
- In **LPS, eligible women receive ₹1,400 in rural areas and ₹1,000 in urban areas for institutional delivery**, along with incentives for ASHA workers.
- In **High Performing States, eligible rural women receive ₹700 and urban women receive ₹600**.
- The **scheme has helped increase institutional deliveries from 39% in 2005–06 to nearly 89% in 2019–21, contributing to improvements in maternal and neonatal health outcomes**.

'RAKSHA' Document on Defence Diplomacy

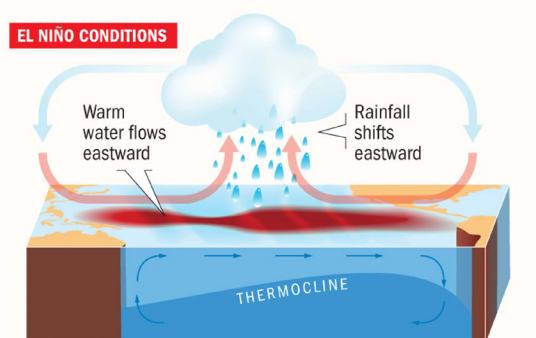
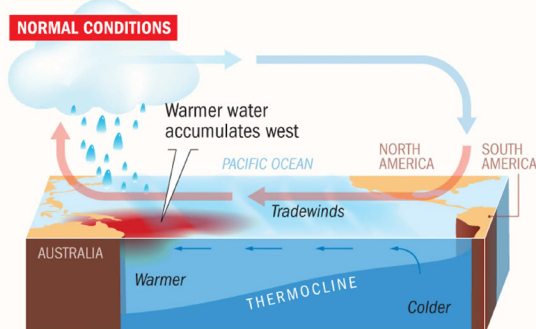
- **RAKSHA** is a comprehensive framework outlining **India's strategic roadmap for global defence partnerships over the next 10 years**.
- It aims to align **national security objectives with proactive international cooperation**.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Deepening **bilateral and multilateral security cooperation**.
- **Capacity Building:** Expanding **joint military exercises, training programmes and sharing of best practices** with friendly countries.

- **Indigenous Defence Exports:** Promoting **Make-in-India defence platforms** and strengthening India as a **global defence manufacturing hub**.
- **Maritime Security:** Strengthening India's role as a **Net Security Provider and First Responder in the Indian Ocean Region**.
- Overall, it provides a long-term vision for using **defence diplomacy as a key pillar of India's foreign policy** and promoting **peace, stability and a rules-based order**.

El Niño

What is El Niño?

As El Niño intensifies toward a potentially historic peak, warm Pacific waters could disrupt rainfall, raise global temperatures and heighten flood, drought, and wildfire risks



- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** recently warned that an intensifying, **“supersized” El Niño** could become the **strongest ever recorded**, with forecasts showing **near 100% certainty of persisting into 2027** and increasing the risk of **global extreme weather events**.
- **El Niño** occurs when the normal **easterly trade winds weaken or reverse**. This allows unusually warm surface water to accumulate in the **central and eastern**

equatorial Pacific Ocean instead of being pushed towards the western Pacific.

- This warming shifts the **Walker Circulation** eastward and can weaken the **Southwest Monsoon** over India, increasing the risk of **drought, delayed rainfall and lower Kharif crop production**.
- El Niño can produce **opposite weather patterns in different regions**. While India, Southeast Asia and Australia may experience **reduced rainfall and drought**, parts of the Americas, particularly **Peru and Ecuador**, can receive **heavy rainfall and flooding**.
- El Niño is the **warm phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)**, a natural climate pattern involving changes in **ocean temperatures and atmospheric circulation** in the tropical Pacific.
- ENSO events occur **irregularly, usually every 2-7 years**, and an El Niño event generally lasts around **9-12 months**.

Places in News

Kyrgyzstan



- A **landlocked country in Central Asia**, bordering **Kazakhstan, China, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**.
- Its capital is **Bishkek**.
- It is a predominantly **mountainous country**, with many borders running along **mountain crests**.

- Its highest peak is **Victory (Pobedy) Peak**, at **7,439 metres**.
- Its high mountain ranges remain covered with **snow and ice throughout the year**.
- Its lower valleys and north-facing slopes support **coniferous forests**, including the **Tien Shan white spruce**.

streams, the Bhotekoshi has very rapid water flow. This makes it suitable for numerous **run-of-the-river hydroelectric power projects**.

- Its **steep valleys and heavy sediment load** make the basin highly dynamic and vulnerable to **natural hazards** such as **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)**, **ice avalanches** and sudden **mud surges**.

Bhotekoshi River



- The **Bhotekoshi River** has recently been in the news due to **devastating flash floods** triggered by incessant rainfall in its upstream areas. The floods severely impacted downstream regions in **Nepal**, including **Rasuwa and Nuwakot**, and trapped workers at several **hydropower projects**.
- It is a **transboundary Himalayan river** that originates near the **Zhangzangbo Glacier in Tibet (China)**, where it is locally known as the **Poiqu or Boqu River**, before flowing south into northern Nepal.
- The river is an important part of the **Himalayan drainage network**. The Rasuwa Bhotekoshi connects to the **Trishuli–Narayani river system**, which eventually enters India as the **Gandak River** and joins the **Ganga Basin**.
- With its **steep gradient and continuous flow**, fed by **snowmelt and mountain**