

D.A.W DAILY MAINS ANSWER WRITING

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Mains Answer Writing -
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UPSC preparation.

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Discuss the causes of Russian Revolution. What Impact did it had on India's Freedom Struggle?

- Russian revolution happened post World War I in 1917, it was culmination of new ideologies and economic ideas emerging at a time like Marxism, socialism and communism. What initially seemed to be a spark of protest soon enlarged it in the form of Revolution due to the following causes –

Social Causes

- Land holdings were terribly small, land hunger among peasants was major social force behind revolution.
- Utterly Exploited and horrible conditions of workers in Industries - low wages and hazards of Industrialisation.
- Suppression of Russian Identity in Europe and Asia.

Political

- Autocratic rule of Czar Nicholas II, who believed in Divine rights.

Economic

- Hardships in WW1 and afterwards due to loss of economy and lives.
- Huge Inequalities persistent between have and have-nots.

Russian revolution coincided with time period of high activity peak in Indian national movement and thus the idea of Russian Revolution travelled across boundaries and influenced Indian National Struggle in ways such as

- Spread of Idea of Socialism - Major Indian leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, S.C Bose etc. were impacted by success of Russian Revolution.
- Revolution Remodelling - HSRA and Specially Bhagat Singh derived their ideology from socialism and thus the trend of believing in a Revolution lead by people came into trend.
- Economic Planning - This was introduced by Setting National Planning Committee under J.L Nehru.
- Economic and Social Justice idea came into prevalence which was highlighted by Karachi Session of Congress and Nehru Report.

Thus, Russian revolution had long-lasting impact on world by hastening the end of imperialism and creation of social justice for citizens.

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Discuss issues faced by Tribals in India. Suggest Measures to deal with the same.

- Tribals constitute about 8.6% of Indian Population only but they exhibit significantly crucial role in cultural preservation, environmental conservation, forest management and providing diversity to Indian society. Due to their characteristic Isolation and changing times, several issues have caught up the lives of Tribals such as
 - Social Issues –
 - Health - Due to their isolated sustenance and poor health Infrastructure, they face high risk of diseases.
 - Poverty - Tribals have high incidence of Poverty, which promotes other social ills as well, Example - Extreme poverty has forced Sahariya Tribe to push girls into flesh trade,
 - Social Exclusion and discrimination due to their distinct culture,
 - Environmental Issues –
 - Climate Change has high impact on tribal lives. Example - Maldhari Tribe are leaving Banni grasslands due to climate change.
 - Environmental degradation by mining activities has impacted them. Example - Chenchus tribe displacement due to Uranium mining and its radioactive pollution.
 - Economic Issues –
 - Forced displacement for development projects. Example - Ongoing expulsion of Kodar Tribe for dam project at Athirapalli.
 - Disownership of minor forest produce, which has been source of livelihood for tribals.
 - Cultural Issues –
 - Cultural disturbance of tribals in the name of tourism or research work. Example - Sentinels of Andamans.

Some of the measures to deal with tribal issues, which have also been suggested by XaXa Committee are as follows –

- Using local art and craft for commercial purposes. Example - Today of Nilgir have been using local handicraft for economic sustenance.
- Developing health and education infrastructure according to local ethos.
- Efforts of TRIFED like E-Governance initiative. Example - Tying up with Amazon and Flipkart for market access
 - PM Van Dhan Yojana - Institutionally production of small enterprises. Example - Khatkari tribe efforts to market Giloy,
 - Panchsheel model of Development, as professed by Jawaharlal Nehru, which allowed development initiatives according to the local need of Tribals, will go a long way in inclusive and equitable growth for all.

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Case Study - UPSC GS 4 – 2018

- Edward Snowden, a computer expert and former CIA administrator, released confidential Government documents to the press about the existence of Government surveillance programmes. According to many legal experts and the US Government, his action violated the Espionage act of 1971, which identified the leak of State secret as an act of treason. Yet, despite the fact that he broke the law, Snowden argued that he had a moral obligation to act. He gave a justification for his “whistle blowing” by stating that he had a duty “to inform the public as to that which is done in their name and that which is done against them.”
- According to Snowden, the Government’s violation of privacy had to be exposed regardless of legality since more substantive issues of social action and public morality were involved here. Many agreed with Snowden. Few argued that he broke the law and compromised national security, for which he should be held accountable.
- Do you agree that Snowden’s actions were ethically justified even if legally prohibited? Why or why not? Make an argument by weighing the competing values in this case (250 words, 20 marks).

Laws are usually in congruence with ethics as the purpose of making any law is the enforcement of societal morality. But sometime laws may come in conflict with the morality of an individual and this creates ethical dilemma.

- Ethical Dilemmas involved in this case study –
 - Truth versus loyalty towards CIA
 - Trust and credibility of the government
 - Virtues of empathy and compassion towards citizens whose right to privacy has been violated •
 - Conscience versus professional conduct
 - International image of nation versus justice to citizens
- If Edward Snowden would have followed the Espionage act of 1971 and did not leak state secret then –
 - Followed professional ethics and contract.
 - Loyal to his organization, CIA.
 - Not allegedly put national security in jeopardy.
 - International reputation of his government would not have been marred.

However, stand of Snowden can be justified based on following ethical principle –

- As he was External whistleblowing was done only after resigning from the job (former CIA administrator given in case). (Wrong Point)
- Gandhiji advocated for breaking the unjust law. He said, “An unjust law is itself a species of violence”.
- As per the Rousseau’s social contract theory people do give up some of their rights to the sovereign power to protect rest of their rights. However how much right has to be given up will be decided by people. In this case permission of surveillance will have to be taken by government; otherwise social contact will be broken.
- Socrates also advocated for “speaking truth to power” if sovereign authority is using power in an unjust manner.
- This will also enable value of transparency and accountability in administration. In short term, this action of Edward Snowden may harm the interest of nation but in long term, it will only benefit the country in form of good governance.
- Based on above analysis, Snowden’s actions were ethically justified even if legally prohibited. Government cannot break the trust reposed by people. If such surveillance is in national interest then government must pass a law on it and inform people. This will ensure apolitical use of it, only for national interest.
- Mahatma Gandhi has rightly said: “Morality is the basis of things and truth is the substance of all morality.”

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Climate change has become an undisputed reality of our times. The greatest single change of climate change might be on human migration – with millions of people replaced and referred to as “Climate Migrants” Discuss the issues and suggest remedial measures for their settlement.

- Climate change is expected to be the largest driver of displacement of human population by the year 2050, with most adverse impact on Climate Migrants, United Nations believe that more people are displaced due to climate change than due to war.
- Future forecasts vary from 25 million at present to 1 billion environmental migrants by 2050. Example - Tuvalu a small island nation is likely to be under water in less than 40 years.

Issues associated with climate migrants are –

- No legal or statutory protection- Climate migrants are not covered under any refugee convention or treaty which leave them in void without any protection.
- Disruption of balance on the existing Infrastructure – Incoming climate Migrants will put an additional pressure on the infrastructure which can ultimately lead to functional collapse.
- Widening Rich-Poor divide – Poor being the most vulnerable and most displaced by climate change will ultimately lead to widening Rich-Poor divide.

Remedial measures that needs to be taken –

- Finalizing the Paris Climate deal and other such international conventions and treaties which can arrest the advancing climate change phenomenon.
- Providing the legal status to migrants under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992).
- Setting up a specialized and separate fund for the Climate Migrants such as the Pacific Possible Program of the World Bank, or setting up an International Compensation Commission for the same.
- Diversifying the infrastructure plans for the future with the additional component of Climate Migrants and its accommodation- so that there is no disruption in the future.

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10th schedule was introduced with the Nobel vision to safeguard the fundamentals of the constitution and principles of elections, today it is mostly used to destabilise the working forces of the democracy in one from or the another. Elaborate the vision with which 10th scheduled was framed into our constitution and how it has changed in present times.

Structure

- Introduction - Briefly introduce about 10th schedule of the constitution
- Body - Elaborate the vision with which 10th schedule was framed into our constitution
 - Write various instances where this schedule was misused for political benefits.
 - Highlight the issues and loophole in the 10th schedule.
- Conclusion - Suggest some measures that need to be taken in order to strengthen the 10th schedule (Although not asked in the question)
- 10th schedule was introduced in 1985 by 52nd amendment of the Constitution to strengthen democratic governance system, popularly known as Anti-defection law provided for disqualification of members of legislature.
- The vision with which 10th schedule of the constitution was framed into our constitution –
 - Upholding people's mandate - Defection based disqualifications were aimed at checking instability of popularly elected government.
 - Curbing "Aaya Ram Gaya Ram" Politics - Frequent switching of parties by legislators, created this "aaya ram gaya ram" politics. Anti-defection law mainly targeted this phenomenon. 91st amendment even banned party split based defections.
- But recent fall of Governments in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and deliberate attempts in Rajasthan etc. have shown some loopholes in 10th schedule and various other issues such as –
 - Curbing dissent from party lines - It is used to curb freedom of speech of party members. Any vote or statement against party is vulnerable to attract defection/ disqualification.
 - Misuse of Position of speaker –
 - No time limit to decide the issue of defection, example in Manipur the disqualification of an opposition member was not decided and in-fact he was given position of minister by ruling party.
 - Rules for procedure of disqualification is decided by speaker, which mostly favours ruling party.
 - Debate and discussion-based democracy to democracy of party and numbers, where the main focus has shifted to retain numbers in Parliament.
- Thus, there is a need to make changes in the 10th schedule to deal with the above issues –
 - Decision of disqualification can be given to some independent continuous body like Election Commission of Indian. Supreme Court in Kihoto Hollohan case (1993) has also recognised that speaker's office is not an independent continuous office and is subjected to judicial review.
 - Considering suggestions from Dinesh Goswami Committee and Law Commission 170th report regarding the Anti Defection law.

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Not all damage that is being done to the Environment and Ecology is anthropogenic. Elaborate while giving examples.

Structure

- Introduction - Briefly introduce about Anthropogenic factors that damage the Environment.
- Body - Various natural factors which affect and damage the environment, along with giving examples and at the same time discuss how they impact the environment by structuring it as immediate, short term and long-term impacts.
- Conclusion - Interlinkages between the natural and anthropogenic factors and how one influence the other and to adopt the policy measure taking care of both.
- Anthropogenic impact on the environment includes changes to biophysical ecosystem, biodiversity and natural resources including global warming, environmental degradation such as Ocean acidification) mass extinction, biodiversity loss, ecological crisis and ecological collapse.
- Humans damage the environment in the form of Overpopulation (exerting pressure on natural resources), pollution (air, water and others), Genetic modification (which may lead to ecological imbalance), Deforestation (leading to draughts), Ozone depletion (leading to climate change) etc.
- While anthropogenic factors are one of the major factors, natural factors at the same time also contribute heavily to the damage that is being caused to the Environment in ways such as –
 - Climatic Variations like El Nino, monsoon.
 - Floods - Orissa floods, Kerala floods
 - Draughts - Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu are the most affected states.
 - Earthquakes - April 2015 Nepal earthquake
 - Landslides and Avalanches
 - Forest fires - recent forest fires that of Australia and Brazil.
 - Volcanic Explosions - biggest volcanic explosion of Tambora.
 - Other natural factors such as food pests, meteoritic impact.
- Processes such as earthquakes, hurricanes and flood, influence environment immediately whereas others have a longer term impact over years or centuries (such as draughts going on for decades), while others such as meteoritic impact (as in the case of Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary event and the associated extinction of dinosaurs), would have an immediate, and likely non recoverable influence on the the survivability of mankind and environment and ecology at large.
- So natural environmental events range across the full spectrum of time and space scales and range from local, recoverable events, to irrecoverable long term and short-term events.
- However today both natural and anthropogenic factors have become interlinked, one intensifying the other. Example - Today, human induced pollution leads to climate change which in turn results into emergence of natural disasters such as climatic variations, floods etc, over population exerts pressure on the natural resource such as ground water which when continued for long time leads to draught.
- So, need of the hour is to adopt comprehensive measures taking into account the interlinkages, experiences and learnings from past disasters in order to shape and save the Environment and Ecology in best of the forms.

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The “HOPE” Experiment:

- During a brutal study at Harvard in the 1950s, Dr. Curt Richter placed rats in a pool of water to test how long they could tread water.
- On average they'd give up and sink after 15 minutes.
- But right before they gave up due to exhaustion, the researchers would pluck them out, dry them off, let them rest for a few minutes – and put them back in for a second round.
- In this second try - how long do you think they lasted?
- Remember - they had just swam until failure only a few short minutes ago...
- How long do you think?
- Another 15 minutes?
- 10 minutes?
- 5 minutes?
- No!



60 hours

- That's not an error.
- That's right! 60 hours of swimming.
- The conclusion drawn was that since the rats BELIEVED that they would eventually be rescued, they could push their bodies way past what they previously thought impossible.

What are the basic purposes of public life? Illustrate any three of these with suitable examples.

- Public life refers to one's interactions in organisations, public interfaces and with people in general.
- It requires strong guiding principles, especially in context of Civil Services.
- Nolan committee in 1994 came out with Seven Principles of Public Life:
 - Selflessness – working solely for public interest.
 - Integrity – absence of any kind of corruption or favouritism.
 - Objectivity – impartial, fair and merit-based decision making, while using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.
 - Accountability – taking responsibility for decisions.
 - Openness – decision making in open and transparent manner.
 - Honesty – Holders of public office should be truthful
 - Leadership – being the role model for others and influencing them to achieve mutually beneficial goals.
- Apart from these seven, principles like Rule of law, Sarvodaya through Antodaya, Probity, Dedication, Beneficence, Temperance, Wisdom, Justice and Courage must also be followed.
- Three principles with illustrations:
 - Integrity: Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try to inappropriately influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. Officers like Narendra Kumar (IPS Officer killed in 2012 in Morena District, MP), Satyendra Dubey, S. Manjunath

laid their life to uphold this principle.

- Dedication: implies giving your time, energy or completely yourself for public cause. It includes passion, commitment and perseverance. Officers like Armstrong Pame constructed a 100km road through crowd funding. Kiran Bedi brought about prison reforms when nobody was thinking about it.
- Leadership: public officers not only have to perform management functions but also have to lead the developmental process, especially in developing countries like India. Leaders like A.P.J Abdul Kalam, Gandhi ji became inspiration for millions through leading by example and stimulating their followers to aim for higher ends of life.
- Albert Einstein has rightly said that- "Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile." There's no greater challenge and there is no greater honour than to be in public service.

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Pollution comes with hidden costs, what we often see is just what is affecting us at large. In the light of the above statement, Discuss the various costs of air pollution other than health costs. Approx. Words – 270 (Intro - 45, Body - 160, Conclusion - 65)

- WHO data shows that 9 out of 10 people breathe air containing high levels of pollutants, contributing to about 9% of global annual deaths. While Health Costs form the tip of the Iceberg, the other costs associated with Air pollution which often go unattended are

Environmental Cost

- Climate Change - According to IPCC global temperature has increased by 1.2 degree Celsius in last century, leading to erratic weather pattern.
- Ocean Acidification - Increased concentration of Carbon Dioxide, Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrous Oxides at air water interface, invariably lowering pH value of water.
- Biodiversity Loss - Global warming, Ocean acidification, acid rain all combined together threaten the existence of species.

Economic Cost

- Industrial Output - In Toxic environment the productivity of workers is adversely affected leading to reduced Industrial Output.
- Coastal Economy - Rising sea levels hampers development of coastal region, land inundation, disasters and transport disruption thus bringing coastal economy to a standstill.
- Agriculture - Pollutants deposition, acid rain combined with increased temperature and variable rainfall causes poor productivity and nutritional degradation of agri products, thus also hampering the food security of the nation.

Social Costs

- Air Pollution increases frequency of disasters by altering global climate, these disasters disproportionately impact vulnerable social groups like women, differentially abled etc resulting into huge social costs.

Cultural Costs

- historical Monuments are being burnt because of increased pollution levels. Example Taj Mahal discolouration

Thus, unattended air pollution is an alarming issue requiring immediate intervention at various levels such as

- Individual/Societal Level - Behavioural changes like using public transport, energy saving commitments, energy saving architecture, waste management all these can go a long way in managing pollution and air pollution at large.
- National Level - Use of smog towers, desulphurisation units etc. can reduce toxics from gases, painting roads with TiO₂ to decrease pollutants and Implementation of India Cooling Action plan.
- International Level - Implementation of Paris Climate deal.

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Despite its promise, hydrogen technology is yet to be scaled up. Discuss the pros & cons of using hydrogen as an alternative fuel in context with National Hydrogen Energy Mission.

- In Union Budget address, Finance Minister announced that India will launch its National Hydrogen Energy Mission (NHEM) in 2021-22. And planning to use hydrogen as an energy source, dovetailing India's growing renewable capacity with the hydrogen economy for reasons such as –
 - Energy Hungry Economy and Climate Change and Pollution –
 - India is the third largest economy and expected to make up a quarter of global demand growth during 2019-2040; reliance on oil imports to rise above 90% by 2040; gas import dependence to climb above 60% by 2040, therefore a viable source of renewable clean energy like Hydrogen is very much needed.

Therefore, Energy future might lie with Hydrogen with various advantages such as –

- High Energy density: Hydrogen has high energy content per unit mass, which is three times higher than gasoline.
- Low vehicular Pollution: Hydrogen is being used for energy applications with suitable fuel cells. Helps to reduce transportation emissions. Hydrogen has a potential to contribute towards decarbonised, sustainable, secure energy future.
 - Hydrogen is seen as a direct replacement of fossil fuels, with specific advantages over traditional EVs.
- Industrial applications: In Iron and steel industry, where it is proving difficult to meaningfully reduce emissions and also help improve air quality and strengthen energy security.
 - Hydrogen has the potential of transforming sectors like transportation, steel and iron and chemicals which contributes a third of all greenhouse gas emissions.
- Lowest-cost option: for storing large quantities of electricity over days, weeks, or even months.

However, the future for Hydrogen may not be that bright because –

- Lack of technical feasibility: Several key challenges related to materials, including new material development, electrolytes, storage, safety, and standards, need to be addressed.
- Non viability: The maintenance costs for fuel cells post-completion of a plant can be costly, like in South Korea.
- High investment: The commercial usage of hydrogen as a fuel and in industries requires mammoth investment in R&D of such technology and infrastructure for production, storage, transportation and demand creation for hydrogen.
- Looking at both the sides, Need of the hour is building up of Long term policy framework for infrastructure and skills which will help in reducing perceived risks, enhancing confidence, increased investments, lowering costs along with building up confidence in private investment, create market demand with policy interventions, develop standards and regulations which should not hurdle the growth.

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“Cryptocurrency has fundamental flaws that cloud its much-hyped promise”. Elaborate.

- Cryptocurrency is a form of virtual currency is a digitally tradable form of value, which can be used as a medium of exchange or acts as a store of value. It does not have the status of a legal tender and is decentralised through distributed ledger and protected by cryptographic encryption techniques. Ex: Bitcoin, ripple.

Predicted potential of Crypto currencies

- User Autonomy: Digital currencies allow users more autonomy over their own money than fiat currencies do. No place of an intermediary authority like a bank or government.
- Discretion: Purchases are discreet and are never associated with his personal identity.
- Elimination of Banking Fees: This means no account maintenance or minimum balance fees, no overdraft charges and no returned deposit fees, among many others.
- Very Low Transaction Fees for International Payments: This can be a major advantage for travellers. This happens very quickly, eliminating the inconvenience of typical authorization requirements and wait periods.

Fundamental flaws in virtual currencies

- Volatile: Cryptocurrencies are subjected to market fluctuations. Even a single tweet by Elon Musk can make it move by half its value.
- No regulation: Cryptocurrencies are decentralised, which makes them difficult to regulate.
- Prone to cyber theft: Cryptocurrency leave consumers open to risk of phishing cyber-attacks and ponzi schemes. Further, transactions are irreversible, meaning there is no way to redress wrong transactions
- High energy consumption: cryptocurrencies require large amount of storage and processing power, which can have unfavourable consequences on country's energy resources.
- Prone to misuse: cryptocurrencies provide greater anonymity making them more vulnerable to money-laundering and terrorist funding activities.

Way forward

- Clarity on Crypto-currency definition: A legal and regulatory framework must first define crypto-currencies as securities or other financial instruments under the relevant national laws and identify the regulatory authority in charge along with.
- Ensuring Compliance and Transparency- Licenses may be issued based on compliance with eligibility requirements and detailed scrutiny of operational policies and procedures on internal governance, risk management and financial resources.
- Implanting the measures as suggested by SC Garg committee.

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Elaborate on different phases of disaster risk management cycle.

- Disaster Risk Management is the application of disaster risk reduction policies and strategies, to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks, and manage residual risks, contributing to the strengthening of resilience and reduction of losses.

The disaster risk management cycles can be divided into three strategies –

- Pre-Disaster - It is a preventive process and includes such measures, which enable governments, communities and individuals to respond rapidly to the disaster situations so as to cope with them effectively. It incorporates four components:
 - Awareness and capacity building: Making people aware of the extent of risk of a hazard and their vulnerability to it, thus, involving them in disaster management strategy.
 - Planning: Safety measures, recovery options etc. helps assess disaster risk and carry on rescue operations accordingly.
 - Early Warning System: It enables government agencies to inform public in disaster prone areas to take up necessary actions soon after a hazard is suspected.
- During Disaster - When a hazard strikes, the service groups, government agencies and social organisations take up all possible measures to rescue people and ensure that their needs and provisions are met properly and their sufferings are minimised. Efforts are taken to promote community-based disaster response.
- Post-disaster: This includes response and recovery strategies.
 - First damage assessment is done through surveys and baseline data collection.
 - Then on the basis of these relief and rehabilitation measures are undertaken which includes restoration of livelihoods, providing basic necessities such as food, shelter etc.
 - Includes special measures for more vulnerable sections in disaster such as women, children, and elderly etc. to enable them to cope up with the effects of disaster.
- For disaster risk management a comprehensive action on all three stages is required. India as a signatory to Sendai Framework has framed National Disaster Management Plan; which provides a framework and direction to all stakeholders for all phases of disaster management cycle.

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American Revolution was not a standalone event, it had far reaching consequences all around the world. What were the causes of this extraordinary revolution and also discuss the significance of American Revolution on Europe?

- Tension grew over time between the residents of 13 North American Colonies and the British colonial Government, which resulted in a full-fledged war by 1775 in which British were defeated in American Revolutionary War, leading to geographical foundation of United States of America and the causes which led to this extraordinary situation were
 - Political Causes
 - No Representatives of Colonies in British Parliament and taxation without Representation - Lead to increased resentment among the people of America and led to the use of slogan 'No Taxation without Representation'
 - Economic Causes
 - Inefficient Policies, Export Limitations, Restrictions in Industrialisation - British acts prevented the economic development of colonies and the Stamp Duty which was imposed in 1765 led to widespread violent protest such as Boston Tea Party.
 - Ideological Causes
 - Enlightenment Philosophers like Locke, Harrington and Milton spread the ideas that all people have inalienable rights that no Government should be allowed to infringe which was in direct contrast with oppressive British rule and upon that inequalities of British society was despised by many philosophers like Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson.
- The main significance of American Revolution was that it provided a template through which modern ideas could defeat oppressive regimes. This war ended the "Divine Right of Kingship" as America overturned Monarchy and became a republic which was based on the first written constitution of the World which majorly impacted Europe where Monarchies were still in power and thus led to a spark of freedom over there also which in turn led to many uprisings in Europe with French Revolution being the biggest and moreover the Thinkers like Thomas Paine who participated in the revolution led to the spread of modern ideas in Europe.

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Has the formation of Linguistic states, strengthened the cause of Indian unity?

- At the time of Independence, India was fragmented into 543 princely states and provinces of British Indian states and right after the succession of principalities into the Indian Union, the question of the criteria of integrating these kingdoms and provinces into feasible administrative units came up.
- The idea of reorganising the states on the basis of linguistic criteria was rejected by Dhar Commission and then JVP commission, however in 1953, States Reorganisation Commission (Fazl Ali Commission), allowed the linguistic criteria in principle, while giving primacy to administrative convenience.
- On Critical Note, the formation of linguistic states has acted both in favour and against the cause of Indian Unity as follows –
 - It ended the ever-growing tendencies and growing centrifugal pressure that might had balkanised the country on the basis of language.
 - Led to development of vernacular languages and imparting of education in local languages, thus overall facilitating the literacy rate of the country, and an educated citizen is always a better citizen.
 - Led to fulfilment of aspirations of people to have autonomous political units for governance therefore strengthening the unity of the country.
 - Enabled the preservation of local customs, culture, and festivals. Over time, the people of India have come to cherish the myriad customs of different states.
- On the other side of the coin, it has led to –
 - Rise of Regionalism - Linguistic states have strengthened the political narrative of certain sections that allowed them to propagate regionalism, thus promoting the sense of separate identity against the unity and integrity of the nation.
 - Rise in the number of interstate disputes - Today Language has become an issue of dispute between states, Linguistic minorities have been considered alien and their rights are being suppressed. Infighting takes place between sections of people on the issue of language and core of Indian unity becomes endangered.
- Since language has played both the roles of being for and against the unity of the nation, therefore need of the hour today, is to play a fine balance between the centripetal and centrifugal forces of unity and at the same time balancing the centralising features of unity with the decentralised virtue of Indian federalism.

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What do you understand by Fixed-Dose drug Combinations (FDCs)? Discuss their issues and challenges associated with them in India.

- An FDC is a cocktail of two or more active drug ingredients in a fixed ratio of doses. According to IMS Health, almost half the drugs sold in India in 2018 were FDC, making it a world leader in combination drugs.
- As of April, the CDSCO had approved 1,288 FDCs. This is disproportionately high compared with the availability in a tightly regulated market like USFDA, which has only a few hundred approved FDCs.
- Given the widespread usage, there is no doubt that FDC's benefits are unparalleled in ways such as –
 - Efficiency and Efficacy: FDCs' popularity in India is due to advantages such as increased efficacy, better compliance, reduced cost and simpler logistics of distribution.
 - Lifesaving drugs: FDCs have shown to be particularly useful in the treatment of infectious diseases like HIV, malaria and tuberculosis, where giving multiple antimicrobial agents is the norm. FDCs are also useful for chronic conditions especially, when multiple disorders co-exist.
- However, the reason behind why FDC's are tightly regulated in foreign market is because of the Issues and challenges associated with it –
 - Poor regulation: According to a study, of the 110 anti-TB FDCs available in India, only 32 (less than 30%) have been approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), the country's drug regulator.
 - Redundant Approval Process of CDSCO - Main amongst them are institutional problems such as understaffing, lack of skills, and inadequate infrastructure. However, the most significant issue is the issuance of manufacturing licenses by the State Licensing Authority without the prior clearance of the Drug Controller General of India DCG(I).
 - Dangerous to human health: The FDCs formulated without due diligence can pose problems namely pharmacodynamic mismatch. One drug having additive/ antagonistic effect leading to reduced efficacy or enhanced toxicity and chemical no compatibility leading to decreased shelf life.
 - No therapeutic justification: The Health ministry banned 344 FDC's after the Drugs Technical Advisory Board recommended that there is no therapeutic justification; and involve risk to human beings;.
 - Problem of plenty: The estimated number of FDCs in India is over 6000. The existence of unlimited brands of FDCs with different permutations and combinations leads to confusion rather than guiding the prescribing doctor.
- Today need of the hour is to curb the irrational use of FDC's which require multistep approach such as –
 - Involving all stakeholders - consumers, physicians, regulatory authority, industry, and the academicians, is needed.
 - Pharmaceutical companies shall be forced to uphold the ethical concepts while introducing an FDC product. They have to conduct detailed studies on such combinations.
 - All the new and existing FDC products shall be subjected to a closely monitored national level post-marketing studies (Phase IV) involving identified community and hospital pharmacies in the country.
 - The marketing approval for the new FDC shall be given by the DCGI only after subjecting for Pharmacoeconomic and pharmacovigilance studies for a specified period of time.
 - The enforcement mechanism by the regulators needs to be strengthened. Both the central and state regulators must harmonize their procedures for licensing FDCs.
 - Awareness generation over irrational use of FDCs must be enhanced to combat anti biotic resistance.

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“The reservation of seats for women in the institution of local self-government has had a limited impact on the patriarchal character of the Indian political process”.
Comment.

- The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments facilitated the large-scale participation of women in political institutions at the local and regional levels by introducing 33% reservation in rural and urban local bodies. Currently, around 1.4 million women are elected representatives in India.
- However, this Constitutional Legislative privilege has been unable to have a ground shaking impact on the patriarchal character of the Indian Political Process because –
 - In India, Politics are considered inappropriate for women. Many believe that increase in the number of women representatives would not ensure quality.
 - Many Women elected are being side-lined by family members. Eg. Sarpanch-Pati phenomena.
 - Elected women also face sexual harassment at the workplace. Eg: Upasarpachn of Kurta Panchayat in Sundergarh district complained to NCW about sexual harassment by the minister in charge.
 - Women 's representation at the level of LSGs has not translated to higher levels of participation. For instance: Lok Sabha has only 14% of women MPs.
 - For a common woman, it's not that easy to raise the ladders of politics without a strong political background. Therefore, the elected women mostly come from the 3B brigade – beti, bahu, biwi.
 - The cultural environment puts maximum emphasis on men. Apart from that criminalisation of politics and the political environment of instability and personality traits causes the marginal participation of women in politics.
- However, many examples show a change in Indian society after receiving this constitutional privilege such as –
 - Women leaders have successfully fought against patriarchy and enhanced the institutional effectiveness of local governing institutions.
 - Eg: Chhavi Rajawat, Sarpanch of Soda worked to bring clean water, solar power, paved roads, toilets and a bank to the village.
 - Sushma Bhadu sparked a revolution in the village of Dhani Miyan Khan, of Haryana, when she stopped covering her face with a ghunghat, a blow in the face of patriarchy.
 - Meena Behen is the first woman sarpanch from her village where women weren't allowed to get out of their residences and talk to other men, She changed all that and raised a self-help group where other women came and formed a united front against customs that don't allow women to come out and prove themselves.
 - Radha Devi, Bhadsiya village sarpanch is someone who ensures that none of the girls in the village remain at home not attending the school. Her work has reduced the dropout rate in three educational institutes.
- So today need of the hour is to remove the lacunae that exist in our political system as to empower the women to her maximum potential in ways such as –
 - A Bill can be introduced in Parliament to mandatory reserve 33% seats for women, so that there issues receive national and serious attention.
 - Gender stereotypes that perceive women as weak representatives should be changed through awareness and education.
 - Women's leadership and communication skills need to be enhanced by increasing female literacy, especially in rural areas. They should be empowered to break socio- cultural barriers and improve their status in society.
 - Some forms of political activity like elections for unions or head girls should be encouraged at the school level, so that girl children can have a taste of how democracy works.

- Promoting the idea of the significance of women 's role in decision making at educational institutions and homes.
- The Local Self Governments have provided a much-needed opportunity to women. The need of the hour is to make women aware of their rights to better exercise their powers.