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## MAINS ANSWERS FOR TEST-16

20/11/2022



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## Mains Q& A Test(16)- (20/11/2022)

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### Approach for the Mains Answer Writing

- **Start Your answer briefly introducing the Topic**
- **Discuss the Key points about the Topic with the Context in the Question**
- **Discuss Pro and Cons of the Topic (if applicable)**
- **Quote the Statistics (if there are any )**
- **Draw the Conclusion ( Make Sure your answer doesn't support any particular view and make it look balanced)**

# **1. Explain the significance of Global platform for Disaster Risk reduction (DRR) and challenges DRR. Discuss government initiatives in tackling disaster (150 Words)**

## **Introduction**

The global platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2022 (GP 2022) took place in Indonesia.

The theme for the 2022 year was “From Risk to Resilience: Towards Sustainable Development for all in a COVID-19 Transformed World.

## **Body**

### **About**

It is a biennial multi-stakeholder forum, a critical component of the monitoring and implementation process of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030).

### **Significance**

It is an important first milestone in the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030).

274 million people have received humanitarian aid in 2022, as per The United Nations Office for Coordination in Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

### **Challenges**

The Whole of society approach might ensure resources but will not necessarily ensure focus on the most vulnerable communities and places.

The element of call for action leaving no one behind might ensure the focus but not the resources.

Corporates will look for maximizing the profit, disregarding its effect on the environment.

## **Global Initiatives**

1. Sendai Framework
2. The Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems

### 3. Green Climate Fund's Sectorial Guide on Climate Information and Early Warning systems

#### India's initiatives

##### **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure Society (CDRIS)**

It is a global partnership of national governments, United Nations agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector and academic and research institutions.

It aims to increase the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development.

##### **National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP)**

Its primary purpose is to coordinate response to natural or man-made disasters and for capacity-building in disaster resiliency and crisis response.

It lays down policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters.

#### Conclusion

The landscape is changing rapidly, with the effect of climate change & disasters compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and conflicts in various parts of the world.

There are new requirements of disaster preparedness for effective response and to “build back better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

## **2. What is Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)? Throw light on FPI regime as a route for foreign investment in India. Examine the impact of FPI withdrawal on the Indian economy (250 Words)**

### **Introduction**

Foreign portfolio investors are those that invest funds in markets outside of their home turf. Their investments typically include equities, bonds and mutual funds. They are generally not active shareholders and do not exert any control over the companies whose shares they hold.

The passive nature of their investment also allows them to enter or exit a stock at will and with ease.

## **Body**

### **FPI in India**

- The promise of attractive returns on the back of economic growth draws investors including FPIs into a country's markets.
- (NDSL), FPIs brought in about 3, 6832 crores in 2002. As per data from the National Securities Depositories Ltd.
- This correlates with the concurrent expansion of economic output in that period.
- Despite the 2008 global financial crisis, which saw FPI sell-offs in that time frame in the country. FPI inflows exceed 2 lakh crore in 2017.
- During the lockdown, FPIs withdrew 1.18 lakh crore and triggering concerns around economic growth.
- In tandem, the benchmark stock index Sensex fell from 42, 270 in February 2020 to 25, 630 in March 2020.
- FPI's willingness to invest in bonds when there is a favourable differential between the real interest rates on offer in the country.
- They aim to invest in other markets but more specifically compared with the largest economy in the world, the U.S.
- FDI regulations in India now allow 100% foreign direct investment in single-brand retail without government approval

### **FPIs been selling India holdings**

- FPIs sold assets worth about 50, 000 crores in June 2022.
- This is the second-highest sell-off in a month since 1993, after March 2020.
- The Indian economy has been uneven in the post-pandemic.
- Covid-19 Second wave devastated lives and livelihoods.
- The economy stuttered again when a third, albeit less severe, wave saw the spread of the Omicron Variant.
- The return of pent-up demand in economies worldwide as the pandemic subsided.
- The pace of recovery caught suppliers off guard, contributing to supply-side shortages.

### **Impacts of FPI sell-off**

They sell rupees in exchange for their home market currency. The Supply of the rupee in the market rises and its value declines. In this instance, the rupee has been seeing an all-time

low. We have to shell out more funds to import the same unit of goods. The most telling impact is on the cost of our crude oil imports contribute to 85 per cent of our oil needs.

An individual investor interested in opportunities outside their own country is most likely to invest through an FPI. On a more macro level, foreign portfolio investment is part of a country's capital account and is shown on its balance of payments (BOP). The BOP measures the amount of money flowing from one country to another country over one monetary year.

### **3. Discuss the roles and functions of Competition commission of India (CCI). Explain how cartels might be worse than monopolies (150 Words)**

#### **Introduction**

Competition Commission of India has been established under the Act of Competition Act, 2002 for the administration, implementation and enforcement act which constituted in 2009. It is a Quasi-Judicial Body.

#### **Body**

##### **Role**

The CCI consists of a chairperson and not more than 6 members appointed by the Central Government.

It is the statutory duty of the Commission to eliminate practices hurting competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in market in India as provided in the preamble as well as section 18 of the Act.

The Commission is also mandated to give its opinion on competition issues to the government or statutory authority and to undertake competition advocacy for creating awareness of competition law. Advocacy is at the core of effective competition regulation. The CCI has been entrusted with the implementation of the law and has always believed in complementing robust enforcement with facilitative advocacy. It is a quasi-judicial body.

#### **Functions**

The commission must eliminate practices which have an adverse effect on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of the consumer and ensure freedom of trade in Indian markets.

To give an Opinion on Competition issues on a reference received from a statutory authority established under any law and to undertake competition advocacy, create public awareness and impart training on competition issues.

### **Cartelisation**

According to CCI, a Cartel includes an association of producers, sellers, distributors, traders or service providers who, by agreement amongst themselves, limit, control or attempt to control the production, distribution, sale or price of, or trade in goods or provision of services”.

The International Competition Network, which is a global body dedicated to enforcing competition law, has a simpler definition.

The three common components of a cartel are:

1. An agreement
2. Between competitors
3. To restrict competition.

The agreement that forms a cartel need not be formal or written. Cartels almost invariably involve secret conspiracies. The term competitors most often refer to companies at the same level of the economy (Manufacturers, distributors or retailers) in direct competition with each other to sell goods or provide services. The aspect of a restriction on competition distinguishes conduct that targets open competition from benign, ordinary course of business agreements between firms," it states.

### **Monopoly**

A monopoly is the type of imperfect competition where a seller or producer captures the majority of the market share due to the lack of substitutes or competitors.

### **Conclusion**

Cartels discourage new entrants into the market, acting as a barrier to entry. Lack of competition due to price-fixing agreements lead to a lack of innovation.

In non-collusive agreements, companies would seek to improve their production or product to gain a competitive edge. In a cartel, these companies do not have an incentive to do so.

#### **4. What is depreciation of Indian rupee? Discuss the factors behind it and its impact on Indian economy (150 Words)**

##### **Introduction**

Currency depreciation is a fall in the value of a currency in a floating exchange rate system. Rupee depreciation means that the rupee has become less valuable with respect to the dollar. It means that the rupee is now weaker than what it used to be earlier.

##### **Body**

##### **Aspects that contribute to depreciation or appreciation of the rupee**

Value of the Rupee keeps constantly changing with the development and depletion of the society and its economic stature.

For instance, the value of one rupee in 1947 would not be the same as the value of a rupee in 2022.

It has constantly changed both in terms of its appearance and purchasing power.

Discussing its value, the value of any currency is linked with the economic conditions and policies of its country.

Any currency, be it Rupee or USD its growth depends on certain factors that dominate the economy contributing to its growth and fall.

In the case of the Rupee, some of the factors that contribute to its appreciation and depreciation are the Inflation Rate, Employment Rate, Imports & Exports, Growth Rate, Interest Rates, Trade Deficit, and Performance of the Equity Markets, Foreign Exchange Reserves, and Foreign Investment Inflows etc. etc.

##### **Other aspects that contribute to appreciation or depreciation are:**

**Net Inflow/Outflow of Money:** The overall inflow and outflow of the money affect the value of a country's currency. The more the inflow the better the value, the more the outflow the worst the value.



**Income Levels:** When the incomes of the citizens increase, they tend to spend more which increases the demand for imported goods increases the demand for foreign currencies and contributes to an overall weakening of the local currency.

**Overseas Market:** A country that has trade surplus results in currency appreciation and the country that lacks or has a lesser trade surplus tend to have a weaker value of its currency.

### **Impact on the Indian Economy**

- As the rupee declines continuously, the costs of imports go up.
- The rising costs of imports can have a dampening effect on luxurious consumer importable, like gold, jewellery and precious metals, which is good for the economy (in terms of reducing the country's current account deficit).
- However, since many of the industries in India, like, automobiles, machinery, chemicals, and major food processing industries, are heavily import-dependent, the rising costs of imports for them may undermine their export competitiveness.
- Moreover, as the cost of fuel, passes in all other prices directly in production costs as an intermediate input, a rise in the cost of fuel imports is inflationary.
- On the other hand, some sectors, like, Information Technology (IT) & IT Enabled Services, textiles, and pharmaceuticals are expected to benefit due to their large export exposure in the international market.

## **5. India ranks 135 among a total of 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index, 2022. Comment (150 Words)**

### **Introduction**

The Global Gender Gap Index “benchmarks the current state and evolution of gender parity across four key dimensions (Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival and Political Empowerment).

On each of the four sub-indices as well as the overall index, the scores are between 0 (Complete imparity) and 1 (full gender parity).

### **Body**

#### **Performance of India**

India has approximately a 662million (or 66.2 crores) women. In 2022, India's overall score has improved from 0.625(in2021) to 0.629.

“India's (135th) global gender gap score has oscillated between 0.593 and 0.683 since the index was first compiled.

In 2022, India scores 0.629, which is its seventh-highest score in the last 16 years,” states the report.

## Steps were taken by Government to improve gender inclusion

### Legal provisions:

**Equal Remuneration Act, 1973** provides for payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for the same work of similar nature without any discrimination. To ensure social security for the workers, including women in the unorganised sector, the Government has enacted the **Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act 2008**.

**The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961** regulates the employment of women in certain establishments for a certain period before and after childbirth and provides for maternity and other benefits.

**The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013** has been enacted, which covers all women, irrespective of their age or employment status and protects them against sexual harassment at all workplaces both in the public and private sector, whether organised or unorganised.

**Section 14 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956**, makes women absolute owners of their properties. The Act was amended in 2005 to give equal rights to women regarding the inheritance of family property.

### Government Schemes:

**Support to Training and Employment Program for Women (STEP)** to ensure sustainable employment and income generation for marginalised and asset-less rural and urban poor women across the country.

**Sabla Scheme** for holistic development of adolescent girls in the age group of 11-18 years.

**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP):** To address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of empowerment of women over a life-cycle continuum. It is a tri-ministerial effort of the Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.

**Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** (erstwhile Maternity Benefit Programme) to contribute towards a better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers.

**National Nutrition Mission (NNM):** aims to attain a “Suposhit Bharat” and has also the objective of improving the nutritional status of pregnant women and lactating mothers and reducing anaemia among women along with children.

## 6. What is G7? Discuss the its significance in current geopolitics

### Introduction

#### G7

G-7 stands for “Group of Seven” industrialized nations. It is an intergovernmental organisation that **was formed in 1975**. The bloc meets annually to discuss issues of common interest like global economic governance, international security and energy policy. The G-7 does not have a formal constitution or a fixed headquarters. The decisions taken by leaders during annual summits are non-binding.

G-7 countries include **Unites states, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom**. Members share common values like democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, free markets, and respect for international law. Together the member countries represented **31% of global GDP, 10% of the World’s population and 21% of global carbon dioxide emissions**, according to the summit website.

When the group was created in 1975, they represented **70% of global GDP**. China has never been a member, despite its large economy and having the world’s biggest population. Its relatively low level of wealth per person means it’s not seen as an advanced economy in the way the G7 members are.

#### Significance of G-7

The major purpose of the G-7 is to discuss and sometimes act to help resolve global problems, with a special focus on economic issues.

In response to mounting concern over money laundering, the **Financial Action Task Force** was established by the G-7 group in Paris in 1989.

It became more relevant in the 1980s when it started discussing issues related to foreign policy and security as well.

In recent years, G-7 leaders have met to formulate common responses to challenges encompassing counter terrorism, development, education, health, human rights and climate change.

In 1997, the G-7 countries agreed to provide \$300 million in order to contain the effects of the **reactor meltdown in Chernobyl**.

Then, in 2002, members decided to launch a coordinated response to fight the **threat of AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria**. This led to the formation of the Global Fund, an innovative financing mechanism that has disbursed more than \$45 billion in aid.

In 2015, members launched the Global Apollo Program. It was designed to tackle climate change through clean energy research and development.

The programme calls for developed nations to commit to spending 0.02% of their GDP on tackling climate change from 2015 to 2025. This would mean spending **\$ 150 billion over a 10-year period**.

### Conclusion

G-7 still has value because all member countries are grappling with similar issues. The 2022 summit concentrates more on the war in Ukraine and the need to reduce dependence on Russian Energy, especially in Europe. Climate concerns are always a part of such forum discussions but they may take a backseat this time due to the energy crisis.

## 7. Critically analyse India's efforts to achieving sustainable development goals by 2030. Discuss the course corrections required to meet targets.

### Introduction

India played a significant role in making the declaration and its progress in achieving these goals are crucial for the world as it is home to **about 17% of the world population**. The SDG India index, released by the NITI Aayog and the United Nations, **shows that the nation has a score of 58**, a little beyond halfway mark in meeting the target set for 2030.

### Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were born at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.

The objective was to produce a **set of universal goals that meet the urgent environmental, political and economic challenges** facing the world.

The SDGs are a bold commitment to finish what the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** started, and tackle some of the more pressing challenges.

**All 17 Goals interconnect**, success in one-goal motivates for the success of others.

### India's efforts to achieving sustainable development goals by 2030

#### Clean Fuel

India introduces BS-VI petrol and diesel.

Delhi will be the first city to leapfrog from **BS-IV to BS-VI**.

13 Major cities like Mumbai, Chennai, and Bengaluru etc. will make the shift from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2019.

The rest of the country will make the change from April 2020 next year.

### **No Plastics**

India has pledged to eliminate all **single-use plastic** in the country by 2022.

### **International Solar Alliance**

**ISA is a group of 121 solar rich countries** which are situated either on or between the tropics.

Aims to deploy over **1000 GW of solar energy** and mobilise more than \$1000 billion into solar power by 2030.

### **Climate Change**

To reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by **33 to 35 percent by 2030** from 2005 level.

To achieve about 40 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030, with the help of transfer of technology and low-cost international finance, including from Green Climate Fund.

To create an additional **carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>** equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

### **Course Corrections**

#### **1. Removing dependency on the Non-Green energy**

#### **2. Strengthening Health Infrastructure**

The efforts to establish hospitals are commendable but the burden on public for treatment is a hurdle.

#### **3. Reducing Inequality:**

India being divided on basis of language, caste and religion, it will be a great challenge to reduce inequality.

#### **4. Strengthening Primary Education:**

India may have higher quality in higher education but the poor status of primary education leads to weaker foundation.

#### **5. Need to focus on Marine Life:**

India has large shore of boundary with sea side, and with this India has great responsibility to preserve them.

## Conclusion

India's effort in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) should be appreciated but due to complex nature of Indian Geography & Society there exist heavy challenges too.

## 8. Why Schedule areas and scheduled tribal areas are treated differently than other areas of the country?

### Introduction

Scheduled areas and Tribal Areas are mentioned in the fifth and sixth schedules of the constitution. **Article 244** of the Indian constitution deals with the administration of Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas.

### Scheduled Areas

**Article 244(1)** of the Indian constitution has mentioned scheduled areas. Special provision for the administration of such areas are mentioned in the **5th schedule** of the constitution and includes certain areas in States other than **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram**.

Scheduled areas are such areas inhabited by the tribes specified as 'Scheduled Tribes' in states and union territories other than **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram**.

The power to declare any area as a '**Scheduled Area**' is bestowed on the President of India and the parliament is authorized to legislate.

### Scheduled Tribal Areas

The tribal area got mentioned in **article 244(2)** of the Indian constitution. Provision regarding their administration is found in the 6th schedule. It deals with the tribal areas in **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram**.

## Schedule areas and scheduled tribal areas are treated differently than other areas of the country

Scheduled areas are inhabited by people who are socially and economically backward. Though they constitute a part of the country, it is the responsibility of the government to make special efforts needed to improve their condition. That is why the normal administration system running across the country may not be suitable for these areas as it requires special attention and effort and that is why the government has greater responsibility for these areas.

In a similar way, the Tribes of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram have not absorbed the way of life of the other people of the state with time. Somehow, the tribal areas of other states have adopted the culture of other people more or less but tribes from such northern states stand connected to their own traditions, culture and custom. That is why such areas are treated differently and our constitution has provided sufficient provisions to provide them a sizable amount of autonomy to practice their own way of life without hurting the unity of the country.

## **9. Can bio-plastic be the solution to single use plastic. Comment**

### **Introduction**

#### **Bio Plastic**

Bio-plastics mean that these plastics are biodegradable.

Unlike conventional plastics, these items can be broken down by microbes in industrial composting facilities within six months. This makes them a promising, if partial, solution to India's plastic problem.

#### **Single-use Plastic**

In simplest terms, single-use plastics are products that are created mostly from chemicals derived from fossil fuels (petrochemicals) and are intended to be thrown away immediately after use – often in a matter of minutes. The most popular applications for single-use plastics are in packaging and service items including bottles, wraps, straws, and bags.

### **Bio-plastic be the solution to single use plastic**

Today, the main industrial applications for biodegradable and compostable plastics are bags distributed in supermarkets (38% of total consumption), the packaging sector (food cups and containers, films, nets, foams), and plastic bags for collecting and composting natural waste.

These applications are broadening, and in June 2020, the Citizen's Convention suggested promoting "compostable bio sourced packaging" to reduce plastic pollution.

Biodegradable polymers can go beyond food packaging and revolutionize furniture, batteries, toothbrushes, diapers, phones, computers, and more. Researchers continue to make progress in developing biodegradable materials that adhere to industry and safety guidelines and are affordable, renewable, and can compete with conventional plastics in terms of performance and durability while being eco-friendly. The world can look forward to biodegradable polymers bringing a big change to how every product is made.



Compostability is now seen as a positive and necessary alternative to plastic products that are still hard to replace: for example, composting could help overcome the difficulty in collecting and processing agricultural film. Biodegradable films can be left in the field after use then incorporated into the soil when it is prepared for the following crops. Compostable plastics will also reduce the volume of daily packaging waste by providing a real alternative for rethinking end-of-life plastics that cannot currently be recycled or reused because they are too thin, soiled, or multi-layered.

## 10. Write a note on the origin of earth and the planets in the solar system. Explain how scientists study birth of a planet?

### Origin of Earth and Planets in the Solar System

Various theories for the origin of Earth have developed over the period of time. Theories for the earth's origin has been classified into two categories i.e., early theories and modern theory which are as follows:

**Early Theories:** Early Theories explained how the earth was formed. The early theories were the Gaseous hypothesis of Kant, the Nebular Hypothesis of Laplace, the Planetesimal hypothesis of Chamberlin, Jean and Jeffery's tidal theory/Gravitational Theory, Russel's binary star hypothesis, Hoyle's supernova hypothesis, and Schmidt's interstellar hypothesis.

**Modern Theories:** Modern theories stated that need to find how the universe has formed then automatically we will be able to find the formation of the earth. Early theories focused solely on the evolution of the earth and planets, whereas recent theories attempt to solve the questions of the universe's creation. Big bang theory is an example of modern theory.

### Scientists study about the birth of planet

Many people use technology to see beyond our planet. Some devices have helped experts look into our galaxies and beyond. One of the first tools for space exploration was the **telescope**. It gave scientists their first look at what beyond Earth's atmosphere. **Telescope use lenses** and mirrors to see beyond Earth's Borders.

Scientists learned quite a bit with telescopes. This paved the way for more space exploration. Humans have taken trips to the moon and dozens of **space shuttle flights**. They have travelled in space and carried out research on many scientific subjects.

Scientists have always been curious. The more we learn about outer space, the more we see how much more there is to explore. This has led experts to build even more powerful tools. These help people explore far beyond the places we can go as humans.



**The Hubble Telescope** is an amazing piece of technology. The tool powered by sunlight. It uses many cameras and scientific instruments. This telescope has given scientists very helpful data. **NASA** says that data from the Hubble Space Telescope has been used in over **17,000 scientific papers**.

Since late 2000, scientists have also done hundreds of experiments in low-earth orbit. That's thanks to the **International Space Station (ISS)**. It's the first orbit space station meant for long-term visits from astronauts from many countries. Scientists hope the ISS will be a stepping stone to sending humans on missions to Mars and beyond.

In the meantime, scientists have continued to push forward. They have built many machines to seek out the deepest corners of our solar system. Probes, such as **NASA's Cassini probe**, have been sent to explore other planets. Astronomers have always been interested in Mars. Now, we know more than ever about the red planet.

The **Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter** and the Mars rovers, spirit, Opportunity, and Curiosity, are powerful robots. They have helped scientists learn much about the **geology of Mars**. This is how the scientists study **about the birth of the planet**.