



41. Discuss India-Egypt relationship in the light of 75 year as political relationship and explain importance as Egypt for India in context with sea trade.

Ans. India and Egypt have maintained traditionally their relationship historically, culturally and friendly. Both nations are celebrating their 75 year diplomatic relationship this year. Egypt has been invited as the guest nation during the presidency of G-20 as 2022-23. Egypt has been the biggest business partner of India. During the year 2021-22, India-Egypt bi-lateral trade reached to the height of 7.26 billion us Dollar.

Indo-Egypt Relations :

Indo-Egypt Bilateral Trade :

- ✗ India made an investment of 3015 billion US dollar in Egypt. It shows that Egypt is one of the largest investment destinations for India.
- ✗ 50 Indian companies are functional in Egypt which create 38,000 jobs there.
- ✗ In the financial year 2021-22, bilateral trade between India and Egypt reached the historical high level record of 7.26 billion us dollar which was 75% higher than that of 2020-21.

Historical Relations :

- ✗ The world's two oldest civilisations - India and Egypt have a history of close connection from ancient times.
- ✗ Ashoka's edicts refer to his relations with Egypt under ptolimy II.
- ✗ In modern times, Mahatma Gandhi and Saad Zaghloul shared common goals of their respective countries' independence.
- ✗ Friendship between Gamal Abdel Nasser and Pt. Nehru led to a Friendship Treaty between Egypt and India in 1955.

Cultural Relations :

- ✗ The Maulana Azad centre for Indian culture (MACIC) set up in Cairo, promotes cultural cooperation between India and Egypt through regular exercises like Hindi, Urdu, Yoga and meditation classes, dance classes, seminars etc.
- ✗ The Centre popularises Indian culture by organising cultural festivals and implementing cultural Exchange programme.
- ✗ Three streets in Cairo are named after Indian leaders - Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Nehru, and Dr. Zakir Hussain. It shows strong ties between India and Egypt.

Political Relations :

- ✗ India and Egypt share close political understanding based on the long history of contacts and cooperation on bilateral, regional and global issues.
- ✗ Both the countries have cooperated closely on multilateral forums. India and Egypt are the founder members of Non-Alignment Movement.
- ✗ The year 2022 was of great significance for India and Egypt as it is the symbol of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.
- ✗ In 1955, both the countries signed on a Friendship Treaty.
- ✗ In 1983, Indo-Egypt Joint Commission was established.

Economic Relations :

- ✗ The India-Egypt Bilateral Trade Agreement has been in operation since March, 1978 and is based on the most Favoured Nation Clause. In the last ten years, bilateral trade has increased by 5 times.
- ✗ In 2018-19, the bilateral trade reached to 4.55 billion US dollar.
- ✗ At present trade between India and Egypt has increased to 7.26 billion US dollar.
- ✗ During this period India's exports to Egypt was recorded at 3.74 billion US dollar (a growth of more than 65%). India's imports from Egypt stood at 3.52 billion us dollar (a growth of 86%).

Developmental Aid :

- ✗ Grants-in aid projects include - Pan-Africa Tele medicine and Tele Education project in Alexendria University, solar electrification project in a village and commercial training centre for textiles technology at Gaubera of Cairo, these projects have been completed.
- ✗ Technological cooperation and aid is the main part of this bilateral relations. After the year 2,000 more than 1250 officials of Egypt have been benefitted from programmes like ITEC, ICCR IAFS



scholarships

- ✗ Many science and technological cooperation programmes are being implemented through scientific cooperation programmes between CSIR and NRC.
- ✗ Space cooperation is an emerging vertical of cooperation between India and Egypt. Joint working group meetings and discussions between ISRO and NARSS have been held, since an MOU was signed in 2008.

Defence Relations :

- ✗ Egypt and India enjoy cordial defence relations. There was close cooperation between the Air Forces with joint development of a fighter aircraft in 1960s.
- ✗ IAF pilots also trained Egyptian pilots from 1960s until 1984.
- ✗ An MOU on Defence cooperation was signed on 19th Nov, 2022 by both the defence ministers.
- ✗ Egypt participated in the Multinational Training Exercise for friendly African countries held at Pune in March 2019.
- ✗ The first ever IAF-EAF Joint Tactical Air Exercise, 'Desert Warrior' was held in Egypt in 2021.
- ✗ For the first time, Indian Air Force participated in Tactical Leadership Programme of Egyptian Air Force Weapons School.
- ✗ 'Cyclone' Exercise between the two countries was held on 14-27 January, 2023 in India.

Ship Transits :

- ✗ Indo-Pacific region has been very important for India as it holds a significant place in the sea-route trade.
- ✗ India has participated in many joint naval exercises with USA, ASEAN, Japan, Korea and Vietnam.
- ✗ India is a big power in Indo-Pacific region. Security of the Indian Ocean starts with the security of the Red Sea and for Egypt, security of the Red sea is linked with Suez Canal-security.
- ✗ Security of Suez Canal depends on Egypt. Indo-Pacific region has strategic importance for Egypt. In this situation, strong ties with Egypt will strengthen India's position in Indo-Pacific region.
- ✗ To control pirates in the Red Sea, Egypt becomes very significant for India.
- ✗ To record a strong presence at the Red Sea, India has to strengthen and promote its ties with Egypt.
- ✗ In the present scenario, safety provided to the sea trade ensures the economic development of any nation.

Importance of India-Egypt Relations :

- ✗ Keeping the growing relations of China with the countries of Western Asia and North Africa, India's relations with Egypt becomes very important.
- ✗ Both the countries provide a strong base for non-alignment movement in this multipolar world.
- ✗ It provides strength to India-Abraham network. This framework works for the betterment coordination in strategic interests among India, Israel and UAE.
- ✗ Egypt provides base for India's developmental role in Africa.
- ✗ Egypt had asked for help from India to control radical Islam.

Present Scenario :

- ✗ During the meeting held between India & Egypt this year, both the countries agreed on improving their bilateral relations as strategic partnership.
- ✗ There will be four factors of strategic partnership. politics, defence, security and economic ties.
- ✗ India and Egypt have signed an MoU (for three years) for the facility of content exchange capacity building between Prasar Bharti and national media authority of Egypt.

Conclusion : In the Western Asia, Egypt is the most populated country and holds a very significant geo-political cum strategic position as 12% of global trade passes through the Suez Canal, an important region of Egypt. It is a major market for India and it works as the entry gate for Europe and Africa. Egypt has trilateral trade agreements with the western Asian countries as well as African countries which is a matter of concern for India.

42. Mention the effectiveness of India in the global politics in context of chairmanship of SCO, G-20 and UNSC. Also examine the related challenges.

Ans. India is going to be the new leader of the world; at present India, the fifth largest economy of the



world, has emerged as a significant global power. New India is ready to accept the global responsibilities. It is obvious from the fact that India has assumed the chairmanship of three big organisations G-20, SCO and UNSC. It shows the effectiveness of India in the global politics.

India's Effectiveness in Global Politics :

- ✗ Like any other country, India, too, visualises to expand its impact, to boost its role among various nations and to register its presence as an emerging power through its foreign policy.
- ✗ A significant change in India's foreign policy has been witnessed during the last two decades.
- ✗ In past, India's foreign policy was defensive but new foreign policy is more aggressive, clear and balanced.
- ✗ India has highlighted its achievements at the global forum and worked for strengthening its relations with the global organisations.
- ✗ India has emerged as the world's fifth largest economy and has maintained a progressive growth rate.
- ✗ India is ready to become an economy of 5 trillion; India has set a target of becoming a 5 trillion economy by 2030.
- ✗ India is a member country of SAARC and ASEAN and is active as a guest of honour in many big economic organisations such as G-20 SCO UNSC G-7 etc. India has been provided the role of an observer in some of the major organisations.
- ✗ India has expressed its strong diplomatic thoughts on every important international issues such as Russia-Ukraine war. For the first time, India has expressed its protest against European Union in clear words.
- ✗ let it be the matter of not joining RCEP of ASEAN or expressing its views openly in UNSC, India has been bold enough to say 'no' at the international forums.
- ✗ It clarifies that India's political power has been expanded to a great extent. In the present scenario, India's new foreign policy is more aggressive and bolder than the previous policies.
- ✗ Like any other country, India too, wants to secure its national interests and it is the primary and main objective.
- ✗ India will have to accelerate its development to make its position effective and impressive in the global politics. India will need foreign aid, foreign direct investment, financial aid and technology for the success of various projects like Make in India, Skill India, Smart Cities, Infrastructural development, Digital India, Clean India etc.
- ✗ Indian diaspora is very vast and strong and it is expanded in almost all the countries of the world. Another objective of India's foreign policy is to connect with Indians living abroad and to make them getting maximum benefits as well as secure their interests.
- ✗ At present, India is putting its claims for permanent membership of the UN Security Council Most of the nations have supported India's claims.
- ✗ At present, India has got chairmanship of the three biggest organisations which states India's growing influence in the global scenario.

G-20 and India :

- ✗ Recently, the External Affairs Ministry announced that India would preside over G-20 summit from Dec 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2023.
- ✗ As the president of G-20, India will invite Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Laos, Singapore, Nigeria, Spain and United Arab Emirates as the guest countries.

Priorities :

- ✗ Inclusive, equitable and sustainable development
- ✗ Women empowerment
- ✗ Development of digital public infrastructure and technological efficiency in the fields of health, agriculture and education.
- ✗ Skill mapping, culture and tourism, climate funding, global food security, energy security, green hydrogen etc.

SCO and India :

- ✗ The year 2023 is very special for India from the international point of view. At present India has



assumed the presidency of the most powerful economic group G-20 as well as of SCO.

- ✗ As the president of SCO, India is trying to establish harmony among the member countries of SCO.
- ✗ As the president of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, India has invited all the members of the organisation for the upcoming foreign minister's summit in Goa. The summit is scheduled on May 4-5, 2023.
- ✗ Invitation has been sent to Pakistan and China too.

UNSC and India :

- ✗ India's two year term as a non-permanent member of the security council ended last year after it presided over the 15-nation Council.
- ✗ India has committed to promoting international peace and security.

Challenges for India :- At present, the world is passing through imbalance and adriftness. Russia-Ukraine war has posed a serious challenge for the whole world. Major challenges for India are as follows: Covid-19 Pandemic : Covid-19 pandemic showed how poorly the world is prepared to face a situation like it.

- ✗ **Climate Change :** International responses towards climate change and other global risks and threats have been very weak and poor.
- ✗ **Lack of Globalisation :** Avoiding globalisation, protectionism, regionalisation of trade, transfer of power-balance, strategic competitiveness between China and USA and other similar factors have shifted the geo-political and economic centres of the world towards Asia.
- ✗ **Narrow Nationalism :** Inequality among the nations has given rise to narrow nationalism and regionalism. We are entering a new polarised age. This is not good for global health.
- ✗ **Russia's Closeness with China :** Russia has started showing more interest in the regional issues. Restrictions imposed on Russia closer to China. Besides, India's being closer to America has weakened its relationship with Russia and Iran.
- ✗ **Russia-Ukraine War :** Russia-Ukraine War is a major challenge for India. India has to adopt a new and sensitive approach to deal with this issue.
- ✗ **Inflation :** Rising prices of the commodities is another challenge for the world and India is not an exception.
- ✗ Inflation rate in three countries of G-20 is more than 10% and in its seven member countries, it ranges from 7.5% to 10%.
- ✗ **Energy Crisis :** Another challenge is the rising energy crisis. Energy is the backbone of each and every nation.
- ✗ **Slow Growth Rate :** Slow economic growth and rising inflation rate has caused the problem of recession. In developed countries, this situation is seen as a fall in demand as due to rising prices people cut their purchasing.

Conclusion : India will have to put all these issues on the forum of G-20 and to ensure that the group focus on the economy going through all these hardships. If the government has to make specific effort, it become necessary that indication of economic growth should be witnessed.

43. Discuss the India-ASEAN relations as a South Asian Regional partner. Evaluate the role of regional organisations like SAARC and BIMSTEC in giving a shape to India's foreign policy.

Ans. Recently, ASEAN-India summit was organised in Cambodia on 12th November, 2022 during which ASEAN-India relations have reached upto the strategic level. Defence Minister India, has emphasised the point that in the Indo-Pacific region, India is getting strength due to its growing relations with ASEAN. The year 2022 was observed as the 30th anniversary of India-ASEAN relations.

India-ASEAN Relations :

Historical Background

- India-ASEAN strategic partnership is based on their historical, geographical and cultural heritage.
- India's relationship with ASEAN has emerged as a major foundation stone of our foreign policy. It started in 90s with India's policy 'Look East Policy'.
- In 1992, India was made the regional partner of ASEAN and in 1996 a dialogue partner.
- India and ASEAN countries are having dialogue partnership of 25 years, interaction of 15 years



at summit level and strategic partnership of 5 years.

Significance of ASEAN for India :

- India needs close political ties with ASEAN countries due to economic and security reasons.
- Good relation with ASEAN nations ensures economic growth of North-East states.
- To counter the growing Chinese activities, a strong healthy Indo-ASEAN relationship is the need of hour.
- To prove its importance in the Indo-Pacific region, India needs good relationship with ASEAN countries as major portion of sea-trade is done through this region and China is increasing its activities here.
- North-East states of India are facing extremism, terrorism other threats. To counter them, cooperation with ASEAN countries is required.

Major points of recently held ASEAN summit

- (1) Indo-Pacific region
- (2) Indo-ASEAN connectivity
- (3) ASEAN-India work plan (2021-25)
- (4) RCEP
- (5) 'Act East Policy'

Financial cooperation :

- Asean is the fourth largest trade partner of India.
- India signed free Trade Agreement in commodity sector with ASEAN in the year 2009, in 2014 it signed Free Trade Agreement in service Investment sector with ASEAN.
- After implementation of FTA, trade between India and ASEAN doubled and in 2019-20, it exceeded 87 billion dollar. During the period of April 2021-Feb 2022 commodity trade between India and ASEAN countries reached record high level 98.39 billion dollar.

Cultural and Social Cooperation :

- ASEAN organises many programmes to boost and promote mutual relations and connectivity among the people of these countries. These programmes include inviting students of ASEAN countries to India, exchange of Parliamentarians special programme for ASEAN diplomats etc.

Defence Cooperation :

- Joint NAVY and military exercises are organised between India and most of the ASEAN countries.
- Watershed military exercise was organised in 2016.
- First ASEAN-India sea exercise will be organised in 2023.
- Vietnam has been a traditional friend of India on the Defence issues. Singapore is another important participant.

Indo-Pacific Region :

- Both India and ASEAN have expressed their consent on the point that along with compliance of international law, especially 'UNCLOS' in Indo-Pacific Region, significance of promoting a law based system in the region should be highlighted.
- Both the sides emphasized on ensuring the freedom of navigation and to promote stability and security in South China.

ASEAN Centric - Act East Policy :

- Asean Countries accepted and appreciated the contribution of India in promoting peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific Region as well as welcomed India's 'Act East Policy' which is based on ASEAN growth.

India-ASEAN Connectivity :

- Importance of physical and Digital connectivity between ASEAN countries India was highlighted to report connectivity, 1 billion dollar was proposed.

Issue of RCEP :

- Though India is out of RCEP Agreement both ASEAN and India have agreed to increase their mutual trade.
- RCEP is a 'Free Trade Agreement' on which China, Australia, South Korea, Japan and 10 ASEAN countries signed on November 15, 2020.

Challenges Before India-ASEAN Relations :



- Development of infrastructure and connectivity is a major challenge for India and ASEAN countries.
- The Indian Prime Minister too has asked for emphasizing physical and digital connectivity.
- Presence of China in the South China sea is a great challenge. The issues of ownership, control, utilisation and exploitation of oil, gas and other sea-resources of the south china sea have emerged as a major dispute among china, phillipines and vietnam.
- This issue has divided ASEAN nations.
- For the safety of national interest of India sea security in this region is necessary.

Economic Challenges :

- India's trade deficit with ASEAN nations is about 23.88 billion dollar, so there is a need to review ASEAN-India commodity Agreement.

Delayed Projects :

- India, Myanmar and Thailand are committed to many connectivity projects such as tripartite International Highway, but these projects will need enough time to get completed. On the other hand, china is winning the trust of these countries through its project, 'BRI'.

Fields of cooperation :

Political Security and Cooperation :

- It is a major pillar of ASEAN-India relations.
- It includes cooperation, partnership and integration of experiences to counter terrorism and radicalism.
- India keeps ASEAN in the center of its Indo-Pacific security policy.

Social and Cultural cooperation :

- Both India and ASEAN nations are linked religiously because of Buddhism.
- Various programmes have been organised to boost mutual connection between citizen of these countries.

Connectivity :

- Connectivity is a priority sector for India and ASEAN nations.
- India has progressed significantly in the implementation of multi-model projects such as India-Myanmar-Thailand Tri-Partite International Highway Project.
- However, issues of increasing sea and air connectivity between India and ASEAN countries and changing connectivity corridor into economic corridor are in news.

Importance of SAARC and BIMSTEC in India's Foreign Policy :

- India's foreign policy has always followed 'Neighbourhood First policy', i.e India considers development of its neighbouring countries as its own development.

Neighbourhood First Policy :

- This policy is a symbol of India's ages, old concept of 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbkum'.
- India has allocated Rupees 62,920 million as aid for the development of its neighbouring countries as well as Africa and Latin American countries.
- India's vaccine Diplomacy has emerged as a strong component of India's foreign policy
- SAARC Headquarter and secretariat are located in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Significance for India :

- Priority to neighbouring countries is given as for India neighbourhood comes first.
- It can protest-China's 'one belt and one road programme' by attracting Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka through development process and economic cooperation.
- SAARC may be helpful in creating mutual trust and peace among its member countries.
- SAARC provides India a platform for emerging as a global leader
- SAARC may be a game changer for India's 'Ast East Policy'. By linking the South Asian economy with South-East Asia, economic integration and prosperity for India may be made convenient and easy.

BIMSTEC :

- It is a regional and multi-lateral organisation having its member nations located on Bay of Bengal which is a symbol of regional unity.
- Its objectives are to prepare appropriate atmosphere for accelerated economic development and to promote cooperation on the issues of common interest in the region.

Significance for India :



- This organisation gives proper importance to India's 'Neighbourhood First Policy' under which India taken care of interests of its neighbouring nations.
- 'Act East Policy' connects India with south East Asia.
- It is helpful in the economic development of India's north-east states.
- This organisation provides India an opportunity to counter the expansionist effects of Belt and Road Initiative.

Areas of Cooperation in Both organisation :

- Trade Investment
- Technology
- Energy
- Tourism
- Fisheries
- Agriculture
- Transport and communication
- cultural cooperation

44. Presently, an atmosphere of instability has been witnessed in India's neighbouring countries. Evaluate the role of India in promoting regional stability and security and explain the significance of regional connectivity with them for strategic and economic sensitivity.

Ans. Under its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, India is committed to establish and develop friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all of its neighbours. India is an active participant of the developmental process of its neighbours and is co-operating and participating in various projects being implemented in these neighbouring countries. India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy is based on the building of a mutually beneficial, people oriented regional structure for stability and prosperity.

Unrest in Neighbouring Countries :

- (1) **Sri Lanka :** Recently Sri Lanka witnessed a serious crisis which resulted in collapse of political, economic and strategic situation of Sri Lanka and an atmosphere of unrest and instability was created; prices of goods and even essential commodities increased upto a record high level.
 - Economic crisis of Sri Lanka led to financial crisis.
 - Sri Lankan public went on demonstration and protest against the government. This situation caused political and administrative crisis.
- (2) **Afganistan :**
 - Afganistan has been a good friend of India. India and Afganistan had strategic ties but recently a change in power and politics of Afganistan took place which has posed a threat to India.
 - The Taliban returned to power in Afganistan in 2021 and imposed policies severely restricting basic rights-particularly those of women and girls. Afganistan is passing through severe instability and unrest and insecurity.
- (3) **Nepal :**
 - Nepal has also seen enough of political unrest. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachand' was appointed prime minister of Nepal after the general elections held in 2022.
 - Issue of Madhesis is also a serious problem in Nepal which leads to instability and insecurity.
- (4) **Myanmar :**
 - Military coup took place on 1 February, 2021 in Myanmar. The country is still in deep conflict.
 - This conflict has torn the country apart politically, economically and socially.
 - Local civil wars have been taken place. Myanmar is looking like a failed state.
 - The military has claimed that it took power because of electoral fraud and the need to protect its version of 'disciplined democracy'.
 - India has expressed its deep concern on the recent happenings in Myanmar but it can't take risk of damaging its relation with the military of Myanmar.

Pakistan

- Pakistan is facing the severe situation of terrorism and on inslability and unrest has been witnessed there.
- At present, the economy of Pakistan is going through a very bad and alarming phase, people are deprived of even basic facility and if they get essential commodities somehow, they have to



pay very high prices. This alarming situation can affect India.

- Soaring prices of essential commodities, increasing debt burden, decreasing foreign currency reserve, declining GDP and political instability are worsening the situation in Pakistan.
- This unrest and insecurity can challenge India.

Maldives

- In February 2015, the opposition leader of Maldives Md. Nasheed was arrested on the charge of terrorism and this incident created political crisis there.
- This situation has created a tough diplomatic pressure on the Neighbourhood Policy of India.

India's Role in Regional stability and Security :

- India has been always helpful in promoting democratic values in the neighbouring countries. Simultaneously it has taken effective steps against the violation of human rights in its neighbourhood.
- Support to moktovahini in Bangladesh, sending peace army (Shanti Sena) to Sri Lanka and attempt for establishment/restoration of democracy in Afghanistan are some examples of India's efforts in this regard.
- India's holds a very important place in South Asia and is efficient enough of helping its neighbours in the process of their economic development.
- India has successfully completed many a developmental projects in the neighbouring nations such as 'Ganga-Mekang Project'. Development of Hydropower in Bhutan, Help in the construction of Parliament of Afghanistan etc.
- India has always provided its helping hand to its neighbours during disasters security crisis. Let it be earthquake relief programme as Nepal, cooperation with Bhutan on the issue of Doklam, assistance to Maldives, India remains always there.
- India has resolved border disputes with its neighbours very efficiently such as territorial and water border disputes with Bangladesh.
- It is an open secret that India is not on good terms with Pakistan and China. In spite of many rounds of dialogue being held, Pakistan has been sponsoring terrorism in India. Terrorist attacks of Pulwama, Pathankot and elsewhere have links with Pakistan. India follows zero tolerance policy our terrorism. This has embittered their mutual relationship.
- On the other hand, China is trying to destabilize regional unity of India. Recently armies of both the nations had a face off clash on the border.
- Keeping the adverse stand of Pakistan and China in view, India will have to strengthen its foreign policy.

India's Regional Connection from the strategic and Economic view of point :

- (1) India - Maldives : India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links. The relations have been close and multi-dimensional.

Bilateral Treaties and Strategic Partnership :

- In April 2006, Indian Navy gifted a Trinkat Clars Fast Attack Craft to Maldives National Defence Force's Coast Guard. India has signed an agreement which includes :
- India will permanently base two helicopters in Maldives.
- India will help set up radars for seamless coverage of approaching vessels and aircrafts. The coastal radar chain in Maldives will be networked with Indian coastal radar system.
- Ekuverin, an annual joint military exercise is held every year since 2009 between India and Maldives. This exercise aims to help the forces of both the nations to undertake counter-terrorism operations.
- India extended a \$50 million Line of credit to Maldives for defence projects especially for the development and maintenance of the harbour of the Uthuru Thila Falhu Naval Base.
- Greater Male Connectivity Project : In 2021, the Maldives ministry of National Planning, Housing and infrastructure signed a \$500 million infrastructure project for a 6.7 km bridge made way link with an Indian engineering company AFCONS.
- India-Maldives have signed four memorandum of understanding (MOUs) in Nov. 2020. Two out of these four MoUs are related with community development project, one is related with sports and youth affairs cooperation and the last one is related with the grant of 100 million USD.
- In 2021, India became Maldives' third largest trading partner. Bilateral commerce between India



and Maldives exceeded \$ 300 million in 2021.

- India has been offering assistance to the Maldives. Some of the major projects executed by India are establishment of Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Faculty of Engineering Technology etc.
- (2) **India-Bhutan :**
 - India-Bhutan Peace and Friendship Treaty, 1949
This treaty emphasises on permanent peace friendship, free trade and commerce etc.
 - Hydropower cooperation :
It comes under Hydro-power cooperation Treaty, 2006. Under a protocol of this treaty, India has given its consent for supplying surplus electricity and development of minimum 10,000 mw hydropower in Bhutan.
 - Economic Assistance :
 - India is a major participant country in the development of Bhutan. In 1961, after the beginning of Bhutan's first five year plan, India has been providing financial assistance for five year plans of Bhutan. India has provided Rs 4500 crore for the 12th five year plan of Bhutan.
- (3) **India-Nepal :**
 - Recently, Indian prime minister Narendra Modi visited Lumbini, Nepal-the birthplace of Buddha where he along with the Nepalese prime minister laid the foundation stone of Baudh Vihar, being constructed with India's assistance.
 - Both the countries have signed five treaties for the development and implementation of Arun-4 Hydropower project of the 490.2 MW capacity. These agreements were signed between Satluj Hydropower Corporation Limited and Nepal Electricity Authority.
 - Nepal has invited the Indian companies to invest in hydropower projects.

India-Sri Lanka :

- India and Sri Lanka signed on a memorandum which authorised India to establish Hybrid Power Projects in three islands of Jaffna.
- Sri Lanka has been a strategically important participant for India and India can utilise this opportunity for balancing its diplomatic relations with Sri Lanka.
- Strong relation with Sri Lanka will help India to keep Sri Lankan islands away from the 'String of Pearl' policy of China in the Indo-Pacific region.
- From the mid March uptil now, India has given more than 270,000 MT of diesel and petrol to Sri Lanka.
- Recently India has supplied about 40,000 tonnes of rice under the extended credit facility of 1 billion USD.

Challenges Before India :

- Increasing pressure of China
- Interference in internal affairs
- Ineffective internal politics of India
- Impact of India's inclination towards the western Countries.

Way Forward

- India's Neighbourhood policy should be based on Gujarat doctrine.
- India should integrate its regional, economic and foreign policies.
- So India should not compromise with the bilateral relations with its neighbouring countries for its small and insignificant economic interests.
- Regional connection should be promoted, security concerns should be addressed through cost effective and reliable technical measures.

45. (a) National Logistics Policy

Ans Recently, the government has launched the National Logistics Policy which aims at immediate last minute delivery, as well as, eliminating the issues of transport related sector. Logistics involves the agreement, coordination, governance process involved in moving resources, people, chart goods, inventory equipment etc. from one place to another i.e. from production acquisition to consumption, distribution or other product initiative.

National Logistics Policy - 2022

- The term logistics describes the entire process of controlling the acquisition, storage, and delivery



of resources to their intended locations. This includes locating manufacturers and suppliers and evaluating such non-rights and access.

- The National Logistics Policy focuses on key sector policies such as Tata re-engineering, digitization and multi-modal transportation.
- This is an important step as the high logistics cost affects the competitiveness of domestic goods in various markets.
- **Objective :-** With the help of this policy, efforts will be made to reduce the logistics cost. The policy aims to cut costs, which currently account for about 14-15% of GDP. By the year 2030, there is a possibility of reduction to about 8%.
- With regards to being the 5th largest industry in the world, India aims to be among the top 10 in listed accounts by the year 2030.
- To create a data-culture decision support system to enable efficient logistics system.
- The strategy aims to ensure that logistics issues are minimized, multiple facts and small spaces are captured, and the people working in them get the most out of them.

Features of National Logistics Policy :-

- Features - Human Resource Development, Integrated Logistics Platform, Ease of Access to Logistics Services, Digital Integration System, Comprehensive Logistics Action Plan.
- The main feature of the National Logistics Policy is that it rapidly increases the pace of work so that the logistics services can be controlled.
- Its objective will be to bring digital services of all logistics transport sector on a single portal. Due to which the corporation and claims will be freed from the present long and cumbersome form.
- E-logs, the new digital platform for ease of logistics services, will enable the industry to take up executive related issues with government authorities for immediate resolution.
- Comprehensive Logistics Action Plan which includes Integrated Digital Logistics System, Standardization of Physical Certificates, Priority Standard Service, Human Resource Development, Capacity Building, Development of Logistics Parks etc.

Importance :-

- This will promote the goals of monopoly as well as promote competition in the industry. The PM Gati launched with the National Logistics Policy will be further boosted and complemented.
- The policy helps the sector to become an integrated, cost-efficient, flexible and sustainable logistics network in the country as it addresses all the fundamentals of the sector along with removing the bottlenecks of supply counterparties.
- This policy is an attempt to improve the perception of Indian goods, increase economic growth and employment opportunities.

Conclusion: National Logistics Policy is an important step towards making India a developed country. The main objective of which is to reduce the cost for the logistics sector by 10% in the next five years, which is currently estimated to be around 13 to 14% of the GDP.

(b) Change of main focus area of the agriculture sector under the agriculture roadmap-4.74

Ans To make agriculture sector profitable and enhance the income of the peasants, the government launches a number of schemes which support and encourage various fields of agriculture sector. The Bihar government prepares the state's agriculture-roadmap and implements schemes as per this roadmap. In this context, the fourth agriculture-roadmap has been issued which will be in effect till 2027-28.

Agriculture-Roadmap-4

- Keeping the great success of the agriculture roadmap-3 in view, the state government has issued the 4th roadmap. Important changes have been made in the focus area under this new agriculture roadmap.
- Now Bihar is one of those states which have surplus production of wheat, rice and maize, but it lags behind in the production of oilseeds pulses, millets etc.
- In the 4th agriculture roadmap, focus area will be : increase in production of pulses, oilseeds,



millets etc, agricultural diversification value addition, climate-friendly farming, dairy layer farming, fisheries, development of agriculture and entrepreneurship and mechanisation of agriculture.

- Besides, this roadmap also emphasizes on market system based on crop demand, integrated agriculture system, setting up cold storages, alternative of chemical fertiliser and inclusion of alternative enterprises.

Focus Area :-

- **Floating Solar Plants :-** Under the 4th agri-roadmap, floating solar plants will be constructed in which fisheries will be promoted and simultaneously solar plants will generate electricity. This scheme aims at developing 'Chaur-area' and promoting fisheries. In the first year of the 4th agri-roadmap 'chaur area' of 50,000 hectare will be developed.

Emphasis on the marketing and Branding of Products, e-commerce and Export :-

- The new agri-roadmap will implement schemes promoting marketing and branding of products, e-commerce and export, e-commerce is helpful in providing agricultural products a global market, so packaging and branding of products will be helpful in value addition and they will get recognition in the global market.

Facilitation of Agriculture-Loan :-

- Banks will have to cooperate with the government for the success of this roadmap. Coordination between the banks and farmers will be emphasized so that the agricultural loans may be easily available for farmers.
- During the period of five years, the farmers will require about Rs two lakh crore as loan. At present, only 10% of state's 1.64 crore farmers have been given Kisan Credit Card (KCC).
- To provide KCC to the maximum number of farmers, responsibility of finance and agriculture departments will be fixed.

Digital Farming :-

- Another significant focus area will be to provide latest updates regarding weather conditions to the farmers and support of IT (information technology) for agricultural marketing.
- Use of nano urea through drone has also been included in this roadmap. It will be a new concept in Bihar's agriculture.

Wetland Development Programme :-

- The 4th agri-roadmap takes care of the development of wetland. Development of wetland will be beneficial for Bihar's farmers multidimensionally. It will protect crops from natural disasters and will be instrumental in doubling the farmers' income.

Conclusion: Agriculture Road Map has proved to be a boon for Bihar, the first Agriculture Road Map was started in 2007-08, after its immense success we have reached Agriculture Road Map-4, but this road map is a multi-dimensional one. is, because along with agriculture, attention has been paid to farming and animal husbandry.

(c) Write a short note on the geopolitics of food security in the context of the Russo-Ukraine war.

Ans In the present scenario, the Russia-Ukraine war has posed a huge crisis in front of the world. The war has affected geopolitics around the world, and including food insecurity. Martin Griffiths, a humanitarian aid official, told the Security Council that the Russia-Ukraine war had profound effects on global food insecurity. They also underlined the critical need to pursue the historic Black Sea Grain Export Agreement for grain and fertilizer exports from the region.

Russia-Ukraine war and food security :-

- These two countries, directly related to the Russia-Ukraine war, are not only getting seriously affected, but this war is also pushing a large population of the world towards starvation.
- On the one hand, climate change has already severely affected the global average agricultural production, after which this war is being seen as a double whammy on the world's food production.

Effect on food security :-

Decline in yield: -

- Climate change has already reduced global food production by a fifth, according to food experts at the University of Canavara. This war has further deepened this problem. Russia and Ukraine account for 30% of the world's total wheat exports. In such a situation, in order to ensure its



food security, the country, which is completely dependent on imports, is facing a big problem of starvation. A food crisis has arisen in front of West Asia and North Africa.

Agricultural production and export :-

- Ukraine is one of the world's largest producers and exporters of grain and other agricultural products. The war has disrupted agricultural production and exports, as Ukraine has completely collapsed, and the conditions of the war are still the same. Due to this, there has been an increase in starvation and inflation at the global level.

Displacement and poverty: -

- A recent United Nations report claimed that more than 6 million people have been displaced in Ukraine, many of whom have lost their homes and livelihoods. This has led to an increase in poverty and food insecurity, as the displaced
- People are struggling to find enough food to eat. At the same global level, it has created a situation of starvation in African countries, along with the news of violence is also being heard.

Growth of inflation :-

- Because of this war, a significant portion of the world's wheat, corn, and barley is stuck in Russia and Ukraine due to the war, while an even greater portion of the world's fertilizers are stuck in Russia and Belarus.
- As a result, global food and fertilizer prices are rising. After the Russian invasion, wheat prices have increased by 21%, barley by 33% and some fertilizers by 40%."Rise in fuel prices: -
- The Russia-Ukraine conflict is responsible for rising fuel prices as supply chains have been disrupted, which will add even more pressure to already strained global supplies and low storage levels around the world.

Lack of food access to the world :-

- Both Russia and Ukraine are leading suppliers of key food items and commodities, including wheat, corn and sunflower oil.
- As goods included, Russia is the top global exporter of fertilizers. Martin Griffiths said that the world depends on these supplies and has done so for many years.

Conclusion: The Russia-Ukraine crisis has created a global crisis for food security in front of the world, although the United Nations is trying to advance the Black Sea Grain Export Agreement for the import of wheat and other food items from Russia-Ukraine.

46. Evaluate the role of organizations like SAARC, BRICS and BIMSTEC in shaping India's foreign policy.

Ans The modern world is highly interconnected, and countries have realized the importance of regional organisations in shaping foreign policy. India, being a prominent player in South Asia and the wider region, has actively engaged with regional organizations like SAARC, BRICS, and BIMSTEC to further its foreign policy goals

Role of organizations like SAARC, BRICS and BIMSTEC in shaping India's foreign policy

- **Promoting regional integration:** SAARC, BRICS, and BIMSTEC have provided a platform for India to engage with neighboring countries and promote regional integration. These organizations have helped India to build stronger ties with other member countries and work together to address common challenges.
- **Enhancing economic cooperation:** These organizations have helped India to enhance its economic cooperation with other member countries. They have provided a forum for dialogue and collaboration on trade-related issues, investment, and technology transfer.
- **Increasing regional security:** SAARC, BRICS, and BIMSTEC have played a critical role in promoting regional security and stability. They have provided a platform for dialogue and cooperation on issues such as counterterrorism, border security, and maritime security.
- **Building strategic partnerships:** These organizations have helped India to build strategic partnerships with other member countries. For example, India has a strategic partnership with Russia within BRICS, which has helped to strengthen India's defense capabilities.
- **Strengthening cultural ties:** SAARC, BRICS, and BIMSTEC have provided opportunities for cultural exchange and people-to-people ties between India and other member countries. They



have helped to promote mutual understanding and respect for each other's cultures.

- **Addressing common challenges:** These organizations have provided a forum for member countries to discuss and address common challenges, such as poverty, healthcare, and disaster management. They have helped India to work together with other countries to find solutions to these challenges.
- **Enhancing India's global influence:** SAARC, BRICS, and BIMSTEC have helped India to enhance its global influence by providing a platform for India to engage with other countries on regional and global issues. They have helped India to play a more active role in shaping the global agenda.
- **Supporting India's development agenda:** These organizations have supported India's development agenda by providing access to funding, technical assistance, and expertise. For example, India has received support from BRICS and BIMSTEC to finance infrastructure projects and enhance connectivity in the region.
- **Counterterrorism:** These organisations have assisted India in combating transnational terrorism and enhancing regional security. SAARC has established a regional counterterrorism mechanism, whereas BRICS has established a counterterrorism cooperation working group.

Challenges

- **Geopolitical differences:** The member countries of these organizations often have geopolitical differences that can create challenges in implementing common policies and objectives. For instance, India and China have had territorial disputes that have complicated their relationship and made it difficult for them to cooperate within these organizations.
- **Divergent economic interests:** The member countries of these organizations have diverse economic interests, which can create obstacles to cooperation. India, for instance, is primarily interested in promoting economic growth, whereas other member countries may prioritize other economic objectives, such as social development or environmental sustainability.
- **Political instability:** Some member countries of these organizations have experienced political instability or conflicts, which can hinder their ability to engage constructively with other member countries. For example, Pakistan's internal political instability and ongoing conflict with India have made it challenging for SAARC to implement common policies effectively.
- **Limited resources:** Many member countries of these organizations have limited resources, which can affect their capacity to participate fully and contribute meaningfully to common policies and objectives. This can also create disparities between member countries in terms of their influence within the organization.
- **External pressures:** These organizations can also face external pressures from other global powers that seek to influence their policies and objectives. For instance, both SAARC and BRICS have faced challenges from external powers that seek to limit their influence and promote their own interests within the region. This can create additional challenges for India as it seeks to pursue its foreign policy goals within these organizations.

Conclusion: India's participation in organizations like SAARC, BRICS, and BIMSTEC has been instrumental in shaping its foreign policy and has helped it position itself as a regional and global leader. Through these organizations, India has been able to collaborate with neighboring countries, promote economic growth, and influence global policy decisions. However, as India continues to face new challenges and opportunities in the ever-changing international landscape, it will need to continuously adapt and innovate its foreign policy approach to effectively leverage the potential of these organizations and advance its interests on the global stage.

47. **What is the government's vision for Amrit Kaal, 'Saptrishi Initiative' meant for? 'The Vision of Amritkaal is a strong and inclusive economy' - explain your views on this statement.**

Ans. Very recently the Central Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman drew the vision of Amritkaal in the budget of 2023-24, explaining its aim to show a strong and inclusive economy. Explaining her view she said, "We are imagining of a developed and inclusive economy where the fruits of development will reach all areas and citizens, especially to our youths, women, farmers, OBCs, SCs and STs." Keeping this objective in consideration the Saptarshi Budget 2023-24



was presented with seven guidance priorities.

Saptrishi Initiative :- The Central Minister for Finance announced that during the Amritkaal, the first budget would be guided by seven priorities which are complementary to each other and work as 'Saptarshi'.

- Inclusive Development
- To reach the last mile
- Formation and Investment
- To expose capacities
- Green Development
- Youth Power
- Financial Areas

(1) **Inclusive Development :-** In it, agriculture, health, education and skill have been included.

(2) **Agriculture :-** Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture, digital public infrastructure will be developed as open source and interoperable public good.

- Within it the farmer focused solutions, relevant services for crop plan, agricultural inputs, loan and insurance easy accessibility and agricultural technology, industry and development of start-up support may be ensured.
- Agriculture Development Fund would be established to encourage youth entrepreneurs in rural areas to set agricultural start-ups.
- For Bazra (millet), global solution 'shree Anna-Indian Bazra Research Institute, Hyderabad would be given support to develop as an international centre for researching best traditions.

Health :-

- 157 New Nursing colleges will be established.
- A centre will be established in Pharmaceutical through excellence centres to encourage research and development.
- A mission would be started to eradicate the single cell Anemia by 2047.
- **To reach upto the last mile :-** On the success of Aspirational Districts Programme, the Aspirational Blocks Programme has been launched by involving 500 blocks.
- Its objective is to bring positive amendments in areas of health, immunity, education, agriculture financial inclusion and such areas.
- A Prime Minister Pevveeriki Mission would be started to develop especially under-developed tribe group's social and economic conditions.
- 38,000 teachers and assistant employees will be appointed for Eklavya Model Residential Schools.
- The outlay for PM Awas Yojana is being introduced by 66% and accounting to over 79,000 crore rupees.
- **Structure and Investment :-** To encourage investment in the infrastructural structure and to encourage for complementary policy works, the central government has decided to continue the scheme of 50 year Interest-Free Loan to state governments for another one year.
- For Railways, Rs. 2.40 lakh crore capital has been provided. This is the biggest outlay till now and its 9 times higher than the outlay of the year 2013-14.
- For regional aerial contact changes, 50 additional airports, helipads, heliport water aerodromes and developed boarding grounds will be revived.
- For the first milk connectivity important transport basic hotel projects have been identified.
- An Urban Infrastructural Development Fund will be established for priority given sector for use of loan.
- To expose highlight skills
- To turn the vision into reality, 'Make an Art In India And make a Art work for India,' three Artificial Intelligence excellence will be established in leading educational institutions.
- For start-ups and for Innovation and Research facilities for educationists, a national Data collection Policy would be introduced which would enable in reaching unknown data.
- To save documents online and to collect safely and to share, MSME, Data Digilocker will be established.
- The third stage of e-adalats will be started for effective administration.

Green Development :-



- For national green hydrogen mission, an outlay of Rs. 19,700 crore have been allotted so that to convert the economy into low carbon intensity, to lessen dependency of fossil fuel import, and to let the nation in the area of technology.
- To encourage circular economy under the Gobardhan Scheme, 500 new 'Best to Wealth' plots will be established.
- 4060 mw. It capacity Battery Energy storage system will be supported by viability Gap Funding.
- **Financial Area :-** To work as the Central Storage as financial and additional information, a National Financial Information Registry will get established.
- A new legal structure which has been prepared in consultation with RBI, will control the credit Public Basic Structure.
- To celebrate the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence one time new small savings scheme 'Mahila Samman savings certificate is to be launched. It will offer deposit facility upto Rs. 2 lakh in the name of women or girls for tenure of two years.
- The maximum deposit limit for senior citizen savings scheme will be enhanced from Rs. 15 lakh to Rs. 30 lakh.
- **Youth Power :-** To empower the nation's youth power, the government has focussed on skilling, adopted economic, policies that will create job opportunity such as :
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 will be launched to skill lakhs of youth in next three years.
- The scheme will cover new age courses for industry 4.0 like coding, AI, robotics, mechatronics, IOT, 3D printing, drones and soft skills.
- To skill youths for international opportunities, 30 skill India International Centres will be set up across different states.
- States will be encouraged to set up a Unity. Mall in their capital city or most prominent tourism centres or financial capital for promotion and sale of their own ODOP (One District One Product).
- The digital ecosystem for skilling will be further expanded with the launch of a unified Skill India Digital platform.
- In order to provide stipend support to 47 lakh youths in three years, Direct Benefit Transfer under a pan-India National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme will be rolled out.

Amritkaal : Strong And Inclusive Economy :

- The vision of Amrit Kaal is based on the approach of a strong and inclusive economy. The Finance Minister highlighted that our vision for Amrit Kaal includes the economy based on technology and knowledge. This economy will be having strong public finance and financial sector.

To achieve this vision, the economic agenda focuses on three priorities:

- To provide comprehensive opportunities to meet the aspirations of the citizens, especially of the youths.
- To provide strong base for progress and employment creation.
- To strengthen economic sustainability and stability.
- The main point of the Union Budget 2023-24 is to concentrate on overall development. The Finance Minister said that the approach of the government is to make inclusive development possible by covering farmers, youths, women, backward classes scheduled tribes and scheduled castes. Overall priority for the deprived classes of the society has also been included in it.

Personal View :

- The budget of Amrit Kaal is based on inclusive economic development approach.
- This budget has made adequate allocation for the development of infrastructural facilities which will accelerate the speed of economic progress.
- India's commitment to Cop-27 is manifested through the development of green energy. It will encourage the development of clean energy and climate change could be controlled.
- The country's development has been ensured through sapta rishi programme or Initiative which includes seven points such as health, agriculture, energy, youth power etc.
- Financial inclusion is being promoted to ensure inclusive and sustainable development.



48. Discuss the main components of 'Pradhan Mantri Aayushman Bharat' a health infrastructure mission and analytically examine the healthcare infrastructure in India. Analyze recent initiatives taken by the government in the health care sector.

Ans It is said that a healthy mind lives in a healthy body and it highlights the importance of health. The Indian government has launched 'Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Yojana' or National Health Protection Scheme on 14th April, 2018. This scheme aims to provide a service to create a healthy, capable and context new India. And on 25th October, 2021, the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission was launched with an outlay of Rs 64,180 crore. It is one of the largest Pan-India health schemes for strengthening healthcare infrastructure

PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission and Its Components :

- PMABHIM consists of centrally sponsored scheme components and some Central Sector Components.
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) components of the Mission for five years (2021-22 to 2025-26) are
- Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness centres in rural areas of 7 High Focus states
- [Bihar, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, UP, Bengal and Jharkhand] and e North Eastern states
- (Assam, Manipur and Meghalaya).
- Ayushman Bharat-Health and wellness Centres in Urban areas to support infrastructure development for 11,000 Urban Health & wellness centres
- Block Public Health Units
- Integrated District Public Health Laboratories
- Critical Care Hospital Blocks in districts with population more than 5 lakhs.

Central Sector (CS) components are :

- Critical care Hospital Blocks in 12 Central Institutions
- Strengthening Surveillance of Infectious Diseases.
- Strengthening Disaster and Epidemic preparedness.
- Bio-security Preparedness and Strengthening Pandemic Research
- All these components will combinedly strengthen support the public health infrastructure.

Objectives : Main objectives of the Mission are :

- To expand and build an IT enabled disease surveillance system for detecting, investigating preventing and combating public health emergencies and disease outbreaks.
- To strengthen Public Health Institutions at the grassroot level to deliver universal comprehensive primary health care and critical care services.
- To fill the gaps in the public healthcare infrastructure especially in critical care facilities and primary healthcare.
- To expand and promote research on infectious diseases (including covid-19 pandemic).
- To deliver One Health Approach to prevent detect and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.

Healthcare infrastructure in India :

- National (Rural) Health Mission has done much to enhance the infrastructure of India's government-run healthcare system but still many primary healthcare centres (PHCs) lack basic infrastructural facilities like beds, rooms, toilets, drinking water facilities, clean labour rooms and electricity supply.
- To ensure health facilities for rural population, the government has established 24,855 PHCs, 15,841 sub centres and 5,624 community health centres as per 2020 data. These health centres provide primary healthcare while secondary care is provided via district hospitals and subdistrict hospitals.
- Technical secretariat issued National Health Accounts report for 2017-18.
- This report shows the increase in public expenditure on health as a percentage of GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

Primary Health Centre :-

- 1 per 30,000 people in general areas and 1 per 20,00 people in hilly/tribal difficult areas.

Community Health Centre :-

- 1 per 1,20,000 people in general areas and 1 per 80,000 people in hilly/tribal/difficult areas.
- The Indian hospital industry accounts for 80% of the total healthcare market and is expected to



touch 132 billion USD by 2023.

- In the Economic Survey of 2022, India's public expenditure on health care stood at 2.1% of GDP in 2021-22 against 1.8% in 2020-21.

Analytical Explanation :

(1) Increase in Public Expenditure :

- An increase in public expenditure has been registered.
- According to a report of National Health Accounts (NHA), the government has been constantly increasing its expenditure on healthcare sector, and as a result out of pocket expenditure decreased to the level of 48.8% in 2017-18 from 64.2% in 2013-14.
- In the Union Budget 2022-23, Rs. 86,200.65 crore was allocated to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- This increase in budgetary allocation will improve healthcare infrastructure.

(2) Primary Healthcare :

- In the public expenditure on healthcare, percentage of primary healthcare has increased to 54.7% in 2017-18 from 51.1% in 2013-14.
- Currently more than 80% of the public. Expenditure on healthcare sector is being spent on primary and secondary healthcare services.

(3) Social Security Expenditure :

- Contribution of the society to social security expenditure is increasing. Social security expenditure includes social health insurance programme, health insurance schemes funded by the government and medical compensation to the government employees. some problems and challenges are being faced by this sector.
- Expenditure on healthcare industry is still comparatively low. In India, total public expenditure on health is one of the lowest in the world.
- Little preference to woman and child health is seen.
- Lack of awareness, little or no access to healthcare facilities, affordability of healthcare and lack of accountability are some other issues related with healthcare facilities.
- **Government Initiatives :** The government has taken many steps to improve healthcare infrastructure. Some of them are as follows:
- **Ayushman Bharat :** National Health Security Mission : Ayushman Bharat will have a defined benefit cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year. This cover will take care of almost all secondary care and most of tertiary care procedures.
- **Janani Shishu Suraksha Scheme :** The govt. of India launched this scheme on June 1, 2011 which entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to be absolutely free including caesarean section.
- **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna :** It aims at removing imbalance in the availability of cheaper and affordable health facilities in various parts of the country and enhancing facilities for quality medical education.
- **Mission Indradhanush :** The goal of Mission Indradhanush is to ensure full immunisation with all available vaccines for children upto two years of age. This mission was launched by the Union Health Minister on 25th December, 2014.
- **Central Government's Health Scheme :** This scheme is operated by the Health and Family Welfare Ministry, Government of India. This scheme provides full health coverage to the employees and pensioners of the Central Government. This scheme also covers their dependants. Under this scheme each central employee is given a CGHS card.

Way Forward :

- **More Public Investment in Healthcare :** The Government will have to increase public investment in healthcare infrastructure. It will make healthcare facilities more affordable, accessible and accountable India's health system needs to be more government funded.



- **Investment for Improving Infrastructure :** Investment to set up new medical colleges and nursing training centres should be promoted and boosted. It will certainly improve the quality of health services.
- **Training to Health-workers :** To provide better and quality healthcare services, appropriate training should be given to health-workers, nurses and ward-boys etc.
- **Improvement in Health Infrastructure :** Health infrastructure needs to be improved. Number of beds, nurses and ward boys in the hospitals and health centres should be increased. Sanitation, adequate equipments and medicines should be made available.

49. (a) The changing geo-political setup of Middle East-Asia.

Ans The East Asia region is a complex mix of different ethnicities, cultures and religions, making it a challenging region for geo\political stability. Historically, the region has seen several conflicts and wars that have shaped its political landscape.

- However, in the last few years the geo-political system of the region has witnessed significant changes with several new developments and trends emerging. At present, religious crisis and undesirable elements in religion have affected the geo-political system of the Middle East the most.

Middle-East Asia and Geo-Political System :-

- One of the most significant changes in the geopolitical system of Middle East Asia is the rise of Iran as a regional power.
- Iran's growing influence in the region is due to its involvement in various groups and governments, as well as its involvement in regional conflicts such as the Syrian Civil War and the German Civil War.
- The government's nuclear program and subsequent deal with world powers has also been a major focus of regional and global politics.
- Recently, there was a lot of crisis in Iran regarding the freedom of women. Protests by women over the hijab continue, while the government machinery sticks to its conservative ideology.
- The ongoing conflicts in Syria and Yemen have also played a significant role in shaping the geopolitical system of the region. The involvement of various regional and global powers has turned conflicts into wars, with tensions rising between the various countries involved.
- It has also led to the displacement of millions of people, creating a humanitarian crisis that continues to affect the region.
- The rise of non-state actors such as ISIS and Al Qaeda has also been a significant factor in the region's geopolitical system. These groups have used violence and terror to destabilize governments and create chaos,
- Due to increased military intervention and international cooperation in combating terrorism.
- In addition the changing energy dynamics of the region has played an important role in the changing geo-political order. The discovery of vast oil and gas reserves in countries such as Qatar and Israel has challenged the dominance of traditional oil-producing countries and created new alliances and economic partnerships.
- However, due to economic necessity in present times, innovation is being promoted in Middle-East Asia and urbanization is being included in its legal system. "Relations are being established with many countries like new geo-political changes.
- India used to buy the most oil from Iran, although now the figure has reduced due to the sanctions of Russia-Ukraine and America, but Middle-East Asia is important for Indian security and social vision. Recently relations with Israel had completed 25 years.

Conclusion: The Middle-East Asia region is witnessing significant changes in its geo-political system. The rise of Iran, the increasing involvement of external powers, ongoing conflicts, the rise of non-state actors, and changes in energy dynamics are all factors that have contributed to the changing landscape. Nevertheless, these regions also present opportunities for collaboration and cooperation to achieve lasting peace and prosperity.

(b) The importance of 'Jeevika' program in women empowerment in Bihar.

Ans. In the framework of a democratic society, our rules and regulations, developmental policies,



plans and programs are intended to promote the advancement of women in various fields. The Fifth Five Year Plan saw a change in the approach to women from welfare to development. Jeevika has worked as a panacea for women empowerment in Bihar. Provides an integrated platform for economic self-reliance and independence for women. And has completed the process of building a chain through self-help groups.

Livelihood and Women Empowerment: -

- Rural Livelihood Promotion Committee, popularly known as 'Jeevika', is an organization registered under the aegis of rural development. This organization is a registered organization under the aegis of Rural Development Department of Bihar. This institution has played a major role in rural development as well as women empowerment.
- By September-2022, 10.35 lakh self-help groups were formed under Jeevika, of which 2.45 lakh groups have credit linkages with banks. At present the bank loan is Rs.5574 crore.
- **Didi Ki Rasoi :-** Didi Ki Rasoi is a community driven central model under Jeevika. It has emerged as a successful model of enterprise in providing quality food to hospital patients, bank employees, school students etc. This presents an important example of economic self-reliance for the women of Bihar.
- **Rural Market :-** Jeevika has introduced a model of rural market enterprise, which provides quality grocery items at reasonable rates to the Self Help Group members running grocery stores. The rural market helps the micro-entrepreneurs to grow their business. With this, women will be able to get a fair price for their goods.
- **Sister's Sewing :-** Didi's sewing program has been run on the lines of Didi's kitchen. To provide employment opportunities in the field of sewing, Jeevika has started its first sewing training and production center in Munger on 15 February 2022.
- **Agripreneur :-** The Agripreneur model of livelihood is a sustainable approach to youth empowerment through agri-based services such as availability of high-quality inputs, crop advisory, door-to-door financial transactions, and collection of surplus agricultural products for sale. There is another way. This has increased the engagement of women in agriculture as well as inspired women's rights by converting agriculture sector into an income.
- **Financial Inclusion :-** Jeevika has proved a milestone in the field of women empowerment by including financial inclusion. The idea of financial inclusion has led to credit-linkage of SHGs to banks, financial transactions to SHG members under insurance schemes, etc. Due to this, the habit of saving has been inculcated in the rural women, due to which the women have been empowered.

Conclusion: It will not be an exaggeration to say that Jeevika has brought a fundamental change in women empowerment and has increased the hunger of economic, independence and self-reliance among women. Seeing its importance, the World Bank had appreciated Jeevika.

(c) **LIGO-India programme.**

Ans Recently, the Government of India has approved the construction of the 'Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory' project. It will be built in collaboration with the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Science and Technology, the US National Science Foundation and many other national and international research institutes. The aim of the project is to explore the gravitational shadow of the universe. It will be located in Hingoli district of Maharashtra. This will benefit Indian research.

LIGO program :-

- IPL - an international network for detecting gravity. The leagues are designed to listen up the change in distance, in the same proportion that may contain several orders of magnitude smaller than its rows. The extremely low strength of gravity requires such high power equipment which makes their detection very efficient.
- In America, for the first time, the gravitational shadow was detected in the year 2015, due to which it received the Physics Nobel Prize in the year 2017.
- **Significance :-** This scheme will be the fifth existence of the network and India will be involved in a unique international scientific experiment. This will make India a unique place that will bring together the frontiers of quantum and cosmic science and technology.



- LIGO India The information extracted by transmitted waves will help in solving unresolved questions and mysteries of physics and astronomy.
- It will help the Indian scientific community become a major player in the emerging research area of Gravitational Wave Astronomy.
- The high-level engineering requirements of the project, the world's largest ultra-hard vacuum facility, will provide unprecedented opportunities for Indian industries in collaboration with academic research institutions.
- The multidisciplinary nature of the LIGO India project will provide an opportunity to bring together scientists and engineers from various fields such as optics, lasers, gravitational physics, astronomy and astrophysics, cosmology, computational science, mathematics and various branches of engineering.

Importance for India :-

- A cutting edge project in India can serve as a local focus of interest and inspire students and young scientists.
- Apart from making India a submission organ to one of the most exclusive international scientific experiments, the LIGO India project will have many benefits for Indian science.
- The observatory is expected to drive remarkable progress in science and astrophysics, as well as further areas of Indian research and important national highlights.

Conclusion: The LIGO India project is an ambitious plan, which will not only benefit India but the whole world in the field of research. This event in India will provide an international platform to India and promote research, science and technology in India.

50 (a) "Saat Nischay Scheme focuses on the development of the youth and women" Evaluate this statement.

Ans. The Bihar Government is trying continuously to boost the development of the state. Nitish Kumar, the chief minister of Bihar, launched 'Saat Nischay Scheme' in 2015; its main objective was to make Bihar self reliant. Currently 'Saat Nischay Part 2' is being implemented in Bihar to ensure quality development in the state. This scheme emphasises on development of infrastructural facilities. **Saat Nischay Scheme :** The main objective of Saat Nischay Scheme is to make all the people of the state self reliant and to attempt for the betterment of the state.

Saat Nischay-1 :-

- In 2015, Nitish Kumar launched 'Saat Nischay Yojana'. Seven resolves or targets were determined under this scheme.
- Aarthik hal, Yuvao ko bal is one of these resolves. Which focuses on the economic development of the students of Bihar.
- Many schemes like student credit card yojna, Swayam Sahayata Yojna, Kushal Yuva Programme etc. are included in this resolve. It will help in skill development in this resolve. It will help in skill development of the youths and employment creation.
- This is a loan scheme that helps students who have passed the 12th standard to realise their higher education dreams.
- Another resolve is "Aarakshit rojgar, mahilaon ka adhikar". It strengthens the position of women of Bihar.
- It promotes female literacy for government jobs. Bihar government provides 35% reservation for women in state government jobs.
- Social Security and Development Department Rural Development Department and Health Department spend almost 50% of their budget on women empowerment and development.

Saat Nischay - 2

- Saat Nischay-2 was launched by the Nitish Government in 2021. Its main purposes are development of youth, women, infrastructure (rural and urban), health etc.
- Yuva Shakti, Bihar ki Pragati.
- In Saat Nischay-2, first priority is given to 'Yuva Shakti, Bihar Ki Pragati. Under this scheme, student credit card for higher education, computer training, communication skill and management skill are included.
- There is a scheme of setting up high level centres of excellence at every ITI and Polytechnic



institutions.

- Another resolve 'Sashakt Mahila, Saksham Mahila' aims at women empowerment and boosting their efficiency.
- To promote entrepreneurship among women, a special scheme has been introduced under which 50% of project cost or maximum Rs 5 lakh will be provided them as interest free loan.
- To inspire girls for higher education, they will be given Rs. 25 thousand on passing intermediate and Rs 50 thousand on completing graduation.
- **Evaluation** : Saat Nischay Scheme is undoubtedly a progressive step of the Bihar government which will ensure the progress of the state.
- For the development of youths and women, many schemes such women entrepreneurship scheme, student credit card scheme etc. are being implemented.
- These schemes will ensure women empowerment and boost youths.
- Undoubtedly Saat Nischay (7 resolves) may play a vital role in the progress and growth of the state if implemented on ground level. This scheme needs to be audited annually so that information about output could be received and be used in making it more effective.

(b) **"Presidency of G-20 will affect the economic interests of India." Discuss how will it affect?**

Ans The Foreign Ministry informed through a notification that India would host G-20 summit in New Delhi for the year 2023. 17th G-20 summit was held in Indonesia in November, 2022 and India received the presidency of G-20 from December, 2022 for one year.

G-20 Group :-

- The G-20 or Group of 20 is an international forum to address major issues such as global financial stability, climate change and sustainable development.
- This Group was formed on 26th September, 1999. It comprises of 19 countries and the European Union.
- Main purpose of this Group is to bring together systemically important industrialized and developing countries to discuss major concerns of the global economy.
- G-20 covers 60% of the world's population and 80% of the global trade.

India's Presidency of G-20 :-

- The G-20 summit is held annually under the leadership of a rotating presidency.
- The G-20 Presidency steers the G-20 agenda for one year and hosts the summit. G-20 consists of two parallel tracks: the Finance Track and the Sherpa Track.
- Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors lead the Finance Track while Sherpas lead the Sherpa Track.
- This year, India is presiding over the G-20 summit and it will certainly affect India in various forms. India's economic interests will be addressed.

Impacts of G-20 on India's Economic Interests

- India is an emerging economy as well as a fast growing country and presidency of a vast group like G-20 will expand India's economic sphere.

Increase in Investment :

- As G-20 summit will be held in India, it will encourage all stakeholders-inside and outside the country to invest in India, all the member countries of G-20 will increase their investment flow in India to boost their own economic interests. With increase in investment, more employment will be created which will boost the nation's economic growth.

Global South :-

- India's presidency of G-20 supports the objectives of 'Global South' as well as new aspirations. It has also brought forth new ideas and objectives of the unity of the 'third world'. It will establish India as a 'global power'; India's relations with the member countries will be improved which, ultimately, will have a positive impact on India's economic interests. India wants to be a voice of 'Global South'.

Development, Energy and Food Security :-

- India's energy security and food security is important not only for India but also for the world as it is the world's fastest growing economy. Restriction on energy supply should not be promoted and stability in energy market should be ensured. India is committed to promote clean energy. Food security will also accelerate the economic development of India.



Sustainable and Inclusive Development

- India's presidency is important for boosting investment in our agricultural food systems so that G-20 would become a sustainable and inclusive community.
- According to the recently published report of 'State of Food-Security and Nutrition in the World', about 4.6 crore people do not own any house and the world is facing acute problem of food insecurity.
- Make in India : To attract foreign investment for new industrialisation and to beat China in economic growth is the main purpose of this scheme. For it, to develop the industrial base already present in India is required. G-20 summit in India will promote 'Make in India' and boost FDI. It will create employment and increase per capita income.

Conclusion : Thus it is clear that India's presidency of G-20 will definitely have a positive impact of India's economic interests. It is a golden opportunity for India and India will make its optimal use.

(c) The State Energy and Climate Index (SECI) Report, issued by NITI Aayog shows its progressive step. Discuss.

Ans NITI Aayog launched state Energy and Climate Index (SECI) on 11th April, 2022. It is the first index of its type which will track the attempts of the states and union territories (of India) made in the field of energy and climate. Keeping the country's climate change related targets in view, the criteria of this index has been prepared. This index will be helpful in showing what effective steps the states and UTs are taking to address the challenge of climate change.

Objectives of State Energy and Climate Index (SECI-1)

- The main objective of this index is to develop healthy competition among the states for better performance as well as to provide the users (of the concerned state) quality supply services.
- It will help work on the agenda of cheap, accessible, efficient and clean energy transmission and transition on the state level.
- The states will be ranked on the basis of their efforts towards improving energy access, energy consumption energy efficiency and safeguarding the environment.
- The states have been categorized based on size and geographical differences as larger states, smaller states and UTs (union territories)

Main Points :

- The State Energy and Climate Index (Round 1) ranks the states' performance on 6 parameters:
 - (i) DISCOM's performance
 - (ii) Access, affordability and Reliability of Energy
 - (iii) Clean Energy Initiatives
 - (iv) Energy Efficiency
 - (v) Environmental Sustainability and
 - (vi) New Initiatives
- These parameters are further divided into 27 indicators.
- Gujarat, Kerala and Punjab are the three top ranking states in SECI in the category of larger states.
- In the category of smaller states, Goa ranks first.

The State Energy and Climate Index as a Progressive Step :

- The states can use this index for improving their performance, developing improved policy mechanism and analysing the expected challenges.
- The index will encourage healthy competition among the states for the transition of cheap, affordable, efficient and clean energy.
- With help of this index, work plans of the states and UTs related with climate change can be reviewed and made more effective.
- Access to efficient and affordable clean energy for all may be ensured.
- SECI can take an effective and progressive step in the development of green energy and sustainable energy.
- The index will be helpful in analyzing the obstacles in developing efficient and excellent policy mechanism.

Conclusion : It will not be wrong to say that the state Energy and Climate Index is a progressive initiative of the NITI Aayog. Today, the whole world is facing the problem of climate change and energy crisis. In this scenario, this initiative of NITI Aayog explains the commitment of India towards the paints of Cop-27. It will be helpful in development of clean energy.