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DAILY MAINS QUESTION & ANSWER

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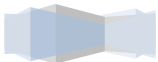Stay connected with us for free quizzes, notes, newspaper analysis, discussions etc.

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Q1. Unconventional wars are not just waged on the battlefield; they are also conflicts between steely minds. How should we combat terrorism that is motivated by ideology? Discuss in light of Indian left-wing radicalism.

GS III

Internal Security

• **Introduction:**

• **Context:**

• The ideology known as Left Wing Terrorism (LWE) holds that all of the state structures and social relationships that now exist in capitalist society are exploitative in nature and that a violent revolution is necessary to bring about a revolutionary transformation. The peasant class is primarily leading this movement, driven by "leftist" ideals found in the writings of Marx and Engels and reinforced by the writings and speeches of Lenin and Mao Tse-tung (Zedong).

• LWE in India: In 1967, a breach of the allowable cap on land holdings led to the emergence of LWE in the tribal regions of Siliguri, including Naxalbari, Khoribari, and Phansidewa districts. Later, in the 1970s, it began to expand throughout West Bengal, and subsequently, it reached portions of Maharashtra and Karnataka, Odisha, Chhattisgarh-MP, Bihar-Jharkhand, and Andhra Pradesh-Telangana. Guerrilla warfare, an uprising with widespread support from the local tribes, was the eventual result of this.

• Therefore, it is imperative to combat both the ideology and the insurgency.

• The following actions need to be made to combat terrorism motivated by ideologies:

• **Dealing with ideology:**

• 1. Promoting a sense of justice: In order to execute the rule of law, the justice system must be made effective in order to hear cases quickly and effectively.

• 2. Better infrastructure for public health, education, and services is one way to improve governance and increase trust in the system.

• 3. Employment and skill development: Central programmes like the Van Dhan Vikas Yojana, Village, and Digital Connect initiatives must be executed with judiciousness and not just remain on paper.

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• 4. Securing Traditional Rights: Under the 5th Schedule, the Forest Rights Act, and the Provision of Panchayat, Extension to Scheduled Areas Act (PESA), tribe members are guaranteed a number of individual and collective rights. They need to be applied successfully.

• 5. Infrastructure development: PM Gramme Sadak Yojana's effective implementation, among other things.

• 6. Securing development's fruits: A larger share of mining profits needs to be set aside for regional development.

• 7. To combat corruption, audits must be carried out and accountability must be established in order to track the real implementation of plans on the ground and to enable timely localised responses.

• **Fighting the insurgency:**

• 1. Bolstering local forces: Past experience indicates that while the Central forces are larger and more trained, local police are more knowledgeable or have access to intelligence, which makes them more useful.

• 2. Efficient exchange of intelligence: between central agencies and police operating across borders.

• 3. Improved Training: Cyber-forensics, data collection, and counteroffensive operations training are essential.

• 4. Improved Equipment: Automatic weapons, mine detectors, bulletproof vests, and cosy outfits.

• 5. Improving connectivity: The government has started a number of projects, including the installation of mobile towers and a stronger emphasis on road building, among others. The forces' ability to move and react depends on this.

• 6. Enhanced Funding for Internal Security: Special Central Assistance (SCA) – to bridge vital gaps in emergent public services and infrastructure. For instance, in states hit by Naxalism, the centre can boost the funding for police.

• In conclusion, the involvement of government at all levels is critical for a successful response to left-wing extremism. Local governments are capable of managing governance and upholding law and order, while the federal government can play an advisory, monitoring, and supporting role. However, a larger amount of funding will be needed due to the state governments' restricted capabilities.

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Q2. The realisation that "tribunalizing" justice will be accessible, affordable, and allow for the application of subject-matter expertise is what is driving this trend. Examine the Indian legal system's use of tribunals in light of this assertion.

GS II

Judiciary related issues

• **Introduction:**

• **Context:**

• A tribunal is a quasi-judicial body that was created in India to settle disputes that are brought before it by an Act of the State Legislature or the Parliament. Articles 323-A (Administrative tribunals) and 323-B (other tribunals), which were added by the 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 based on the Swaran Singh Committee's proposal, govern their formation.

• **Authority of a Tribunal:**

• Comparable to a civil court in that summonses are issued and witnesses are permitted to testify.

• Subject to appeal, its rulings are legally binding on the involved parties.

• **The Benefits of Tribunals:**

• 1. Quick and Easy Procedures: Not subject to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, or the Indian Evidence Act of 1872, but yet endowed with civil court authority and subject to natural justice principles.

• Flexible: They must adhere to the natural justice principles but are not required to follow any standard method as specified by the Indian Evidence Act and the Civil method Code.

• Less costly: The traditional legal system is costly because it takes time.

• **Tribunals' Restrictions:**

• Opposed to SEPARATION OF POWERS: The judicial branch is being intruded upon by the executive through tribunalization. Legal Rule Deviation in Administrative Adjudication

• Opposing THE PRINCIPLE OF JUSTICE: Internal tribunals could have a pro-parent organisation bias. Additionally, these rely on the Executive for appointments and funding

• It adheres to its own laws and processes rather than a uniform code of procedure.

• Inexperience with court procedures: Managed by technical heads and administrators.

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• Limitations of Powers: They lack proper infrastructure and are not as independent of the Executive as courts are.

• Lack of experts: Tribunals are frequently presided over by retired judges who were selected by the government. Current judges may favour the government in court cases for positions that come open after retirement. The Supreme Court ruled in the Chandra Kumar case that the entire goal of lessening the burden of the judiciary is defeated by tribunal appeals to higher courts.

• In conclusion, tribunals play a critical role in the effective administration of justice in the nation. This means that tribunals' organisational and operational reforms are required. It needs to have an Independent Appointment Committee and more authority.

Q 3. Although the Right to Information (RTI) Act is regarded as a sunshine law, it is not without difficulties. Examine the statement while highlighting the modifications made by the RTI (Amendment) Act 2019.

GS II

Government Policies and Interventions

•Introduction:

•The parliament passed the Right to Information (RTI) Act, granting residents the right to timely requests for information from public offices. RTI is regarded as "sunshine legislation" since it has replaced the culture of secrecy in government offices with one of openness and disclosure.

•The RTI Act fulfils the function of sunshine laws in the following ways:

•Through the establishment of a grievance redressal procedure, a public information officer in every public agency, and a set time limit for information provision, RTI has institutionalised openness.

•In addition to preventing RTI petitions from becoming an administrative burden, proactive disclosures made possible by suo moto disclosures under Section 4 of the RTI have increased transparency in public offices.

•A more engaged populace with the ability to hold government entities responsible for providing entitlements like public services, pensions, scholarships, and so on has been made possible by RTI.

•RTI has aided in exposing corruption, including the 2G and Adarsh Society scams.

•Civil society organisations now have more momentum to hold the government accountable for improving the lives of the impoverished by being transparent about its spending and results thanks to RTI.

•Notwithstanding RTI's positive effects as a sunshine law, the Act nonetheless faces the following difficulties:

•Because the RTI (Amendment) Act 2019 subjects the terms of Central and State ICs' offices to Union executive regulations rather than legislative restrictions, it has weakened their independence.

•The Act grants the federal government the authority to announce tenure and salary changes, which could result in the arbitrary termination, postponement, or allure of pay adjustments. The ICs may become more politicised as a result.

•Federal spirit is violated when SICs are under central government control. It might turn SICs from watchdogs for transparency into handmaidens of the centre.

•Due to PIOs' rejection of information, there are a lot of appeals pending before the ICs. ICs are frequently observed to be sympathetic to the officials. Decisions made by the CIC are still not being enforced because of legal challenges.
•It is difficult to protect whistleblowers. Since the Act's passage in 2005, more than 85 RTI advocates have died, according to the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative.

•The RTI's section 8's national security exception is frequently applied as a general standard to deny requests for information. Additionally, pointless requests often overload government agencies, making it difficult for them to complete routine administrative tasks.

•The administrative culture of secrecy has changed as a result of RTI, but considerable work needs to be done to maintain the culture of transparency. The 2nd ARC proposed that public officials take an oath of transparency, and that government intervention in transparency be limited to protect institutional autonomy.

Q 4. Despite having the ability to completely change the nation's agricultural environment, the horticulture industry faces a number of obstacles. Analyse.

GS III

Indian Agriculture related issues

•Introduction:

•Context:

•A subset of agriculture known as horticulture is concerned with the growing, harvesting, and selling of fruits, vegetables, flowers, herbs, and exotic plants, among other things. In India, horticulture makes up 17% of the 140 million hectares of arable land. Additionally, horticulture crops account for 30% of India's agricultural GDP.

•The changing agricultural landscape and the role of horticulture:

•Rewarding and income-accelerating: According to the Ashok Dalwai Committee, horticulture has the potential to double farmer income. Crops used in horticulture are highly productive, need little input, and have a high market value.

•India leads the globe in the production of ginger, bananas, mangoes, and a variety of other fruits and vegetables, which is a boost to the food processing business. Thus, employment possibilities in both the farm and nonfarm sectors can be created by connecting horticulture with the food processing industry.

•Simple for inexperienced farmers: Gardening is very simple for inexperienced individuals. It can meet the needs of the nation's population, which is largely made up of unskilled and semiskilled workers who want to leave the agricultural sector. Therefore, it can be quite helpful in reducing poverty.

•High output: Since 2012–2013, the nation's production of fruits and vegetables (306.8 million tonnes) has surpassed that of food grains (279.5 million tonnes). This suggests that horticulture is becoming an increasingly significant economic factor in the expansion of India's agricultural industry.

•Premium exports:

•Compared to food grain exports, horticulture crops account for a larger portion of export revenue.

•However, the horticulture industry faces a number of difficulties, including:

•Agricultural Policy: Horticulture has remained less appealing to farmers because of the policy's ongoing bias towards grain production, which includes measures like free power and minimum support prices.

•Inadequate infrastructure: Fruit and vegetable waste is increased when there is poor cold chain storage, electricity, and transportation.

•Outdated technology: To extend product shelf life, the horticulture industry requires a variety of technologies, such as irradiation devices. In the Indian scenario, this is absent.

•High price fluctuations: Compared to food grains, horticulture has two major challenges: fluctuating crop prices and high initial input costs.

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•Inadequate market intelligence: The farmers' ability to make money is restricted by the lack of appropriate price discovery procedures.

•Phytosanitary conditions: Inadequate phytosanitary practises during fruit production lower horticulture's potential for export.

•Programmes like the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme attempt to address some of the issues stated above. However, a more comprehensive strategy encompassing infrastructural development,

Q 5. One of the world's most delicate ecosystems in terms of geology and ecology is the Himalayan Mountains. Analyse the current threats to the Himalayan ecology as well as any possible effects.

GS III

Geography related issues

• Introduction:

• One of the most crucial geographical elements for human survival on Earth is the Himalayas. It is a source of rivers with 500 gigawatts (GW) of hydroelectric potential that support over 200 crore people in twelve countries, ranging from Afghanistan to Vietnam. The survival of humans and all other living things would be catastrophically threatened by any threat to such an environment.

• Today's risks to the Himalayan ecology include:

• Deforestation and Monoculture: The Himalayan area of Asia is said to have some of the most severely reduced forests. The Himalayan Oak and Rhododendron woods have been supplanted over time by Chir Pine plantations.

• Land use and urbanisation: The topography of the Himalayas has seen significant change, moving from forest cover to farming to built landscape.

• Projects involving hydropower: The Indian Himalayas are said to hold the world's greatest potential for hydropower. According to one estimate, the Indian Himalayas will have one dam for every 32 km if the government plan to build dams in 28 river valleys in the highlands is carried out in a few decades. But in addition to destroying a large amount of species, this would clog the channel, preventing silt from entering it and producing micro-seismicity.

• Connectivity projects: Over time, there has been a rise in construction activities in the Himalayas, including the Char Dham Highway projects and the NH1 expansion. These initiatives are frequently required by strategic and financial requirements. But it also damages the ecosystem.

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• Climate Change: The glaciers in the Himalayan ecosystem may be under risk due to climate change. By 2060, half of the Himalayan region's current glaciers are predicted to disappear.
• Danger to natural wealth: The Indo-Burma hotspot and the Eastern Himalayan hotspot are two biodiversity hotspots in the Himalayan region. Four biosphere reserves, numerous national parks, and wildlife sanctuaries are located here. These protected heritages are under risk from any changes in the climate or landscape.

• **These dangers' effects are:**

• Increased seismicity: There has been a lot of warning about the potential hazard posed by dam-induced micro-seismicity, especially in the wake of the devastating 2013 floods that decimated Kedarnath and the mild earthquake that struck the area where the Tehri dam was constructed in 1991.

• Risks of landslides have increased steadily as a result of destabilisation of slopes brought on by development and a decrease in vegetation cover.

• **An increase in flash flood incidences can be attributed to a number of factors:**

• Glacial lakes are growing as a result of the Himalayan glaciers melting, which presents a serious risk to downstream infrastructure and life.

• As a result of an increase in "cloud burst" instances.

• Faster rate of glacier melting, which could cause glaciers to move.

• Biodiversity loss: The coming years will see a loss in biodiversity due to a number of factors, including changing climate conditions, shifting natural areas, and conflicts between humans and animals.

• Habitat Fragmentation: The species' migratory paths become fractured as a result of several development projects, which puts them at risk.

• Reduced river supplies: It is anticipated that, with the current rate of climate change, the Himalayan glaciers would be lost in significant amounts, significantly diminishing the supply of Indian rivers, which are a major source of power and drinking water for northern India.

• Drought risk in North India: Seasonal drought conditions could arise in North India due to significant river volume reduction brought on by glacier retreat.

• Loss of livelihood: A large number of pastoralists, such the Bhotias, Gaddis, and Van Gujjars, rely on the Himalayas for their living. Loss of forest will result in decreased productivity of small-scale forest products as well as lost revenue from the travel and tourist sector.

• For India's economy, culture, and geography to survive, the Himalayan ecology is essential. It means that protecting the geology and such ecosystems is essential. Because of this, it's critical that development efforts continue to be sustainable and that environmental impact assessments be carefully completed to minimise negative effects.

Q 6. What are the fundamental components that keep a terror outfit going? What action should India take to address the terror coming from Pakistani soil?

GS III

Terrorism related issues

• Introduction:

• In contrast to assassination, terrorism is a fear-inducing technique of repeated violent action used by covert individual, group, or state actors for unique, illegal, or political purposes. The immediate human victims of terrorism are typically chosen at random or with selection from a target population, and they also function as message bearers.

• Important components shared by all acts of terror:

• Terrorising or Trying to Have a Moral Impact: The primary goal of a terrorist group is to make an impression on people's thoughts in order to either sow discord in society or instill fear, which will lower trust in the established order.

• Illegal financing mechanisms include a variety of activities like prostitution and illegal immigration, money laundering, contract killings, smuggling of weapons, drug and gold trafficking, cybercrime, extortion, and maritime piracy. It is the most crucial pillar because it sets up logistical support and followership.

• An ideology's propagation (as in the case of Jihadi terrorism), financial gain (as in the case of narco-terrorism), or inflicting suffering on a country (as in the case of state-sponsored terrorism) can all be the motivations behind terrorism.

• Supply chains for the smuggling of weapons: A network for the supply of weapons is required. For instance, left-wing extremism frequently receives its arms from Nepal; in the case of the Taliban, Pakistan served as the primary supplier, and funding came from the trade in opium.
• Channels of communication: Electronic methods are frequently traceable. Consequently, there are sophisticated ways to communicate, such as through text messages, ads in newspapers, etc.

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• Shielding Mechanism: Terrorists frequently dress indistinguishably, making them difficult to identify and essentially using regular people as shields.

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• Through Pakistan, the "external state sponsored terrorism" is maintained by the financial, logistical, technological, and ideological support that it provides to terrorists. In India, it takes two forms:

• The state of Pakistan and the Indian Security Agency (ISI) have a direct influence on terrorism in Kashmir; on the other hand, the Indian Mujahideen (SIMI) receive indirect support from the ISI and the Pakistani government.

• These groups are supported by a network of money laundering, smuggling of drugs and weapons, and counterfeit currency centred in Pakistan.

• Actions India should do to combat this terrorism:

• Reducing the funding of terrorism in India: For instance, large amounts of drugs that are used to fund terrorism in India are brought into India through Punjab and Kashmir.

• Dedicated Cyber Cell: To thwart the propaganda supporting jihadi movements coming from Pakistan into Indian cyberspace.

• Cooperation inside UNSC: By obstructing Pakistan, the UN Security Council can promote increased cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

• Urge the passage of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT), a treaty that offers a thorough international legal framework for combating terrorism.

• India's membership in the Global Financial Action Task Force, which seeks to combat the financing of terrorism, is exerting pressure on Pakistan. For example, Pakistan has remained on the FATF's Grey List because the government has not complied with the timeline set forth for the prosecution and punishment of terrorist financing.

• Information sharing with friendly nations: The US-India Homeland Security Dialogue was established in 2011, and there are similar arrangements with Israel.
• Improved Collaboration with Central Asia: Given that the Chinese have been persecuting the genetically similar Uighurs, India is seen as a positive alternative to the Chinese influence in the region and enjoys strong ties with the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation).

• Using terrorism as a weapon against Pakistan: India has the financial means to provide financial support to terrorist organisations. The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) are two such examples.

• The Integrated Intelligence Grid, or NATGRID, would house data from eleven different categories of government agencies and private financial institutions. As quickly as possible, these processes need to be activated.

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• In conclusion, the Taliban's return to Kabul would give their fellow passengers, handlers, and supporters in the area more confidence. The Taliban is unlikely to intentionally export terror to other nations, unless it is necessary for them to do so tactically—for example, in order to use Pakistan against India. Nonetheless, it can incite resentful factions inside the area.

• The region's terror ecosystem was somewhat moderated by the US presence in Afghanistan, international pressure on the Taliban, and FATF concerns in Pakistan. India needs to put more pressure on Pakistan to give up its ambition of delivering India thousand cuts, and one way to do this is by imposing economic penalties.

Q 7. Examine the risk posed by the digital economy's monopolistic tendencies.

GS III

Indian Economy related issues

• **Introduction:**

• **Context:**

• A situation known as monopoly occurs when a single vendor dominates the market and sells a singular commodity. It is an issue since the price of these things is typically far more than their true value, going against what customers want to buy. 'Data is the new oil' in today's society. The world economy is under the authority of whoever manages the data's movement and storage.
• The digital economy is rife with these tendencies. For instance, Facebook, which also controls Instagram and Whatsapp, has a monopoly in the social network space, while Google has a monopoly in the search engine market.

• **Danger associated with these monopolies:**

• 1. Lack of Transparency: The precise usage of the data is unknown. Every product in a competitive market is transparently priced and described, allowing the market to fully understand the ramifications of each one.

• 2. Analysing fair value is tough since people don't know how to value their personal information. As a result, it's challenging to determine how much is received in return for what is given.

• Three. Anti-competitive: It works against new companies' best interests. Despite being a public domain commodity, data is nonetheless regarded as a competing and exclusive good.

• 4. Impacts customer preferences: There is a chance that a single company could deceive customers.

• 5. Implications for politics: For instance, former US presidents' tweets were blocked by Twitter, which controls the market for short message services. It displays the power that these enormous beings produce. They are in charge of how information is shared.

• 6. Data control: A lot of information about Indian citizens is under the jurisdiction of these foreign tech behemoths. 'Data sovereignty' is brought up by this.

• 7. Risk of breaches: The experiences of Wikileaks and Cambridge Analytica demonstrate that the data stored by these massive tech companies is not as secure as it is believed to be. This has significant ramifications if misused.

• **Remedies for such monopolies include:**

• 1. Law: By using legislation, the government can impose regulations on data in a manner that lessens the risks mentioned above.

• 2. "Informed" Consent: In order to give meaningful consent, the processes for obtaining it need to be made simpler and more transparent.

• 3. Data Localization: To lower risks, particularly financial risks, the government and the RBI have recently emphasised the importance of localising data. In order to solve this problem, the government has also introduced the Data Protection Bill, which requires that a copy of the data be kept in India.

• 4. Homegrown tech giants: The government can help create our own tech giants by offering subsidies to homegrown tech start-ups through the Made in India programme.

• **Way Forward:**

• There is therefore a dual challenge in the scenario where we are unable to control the monopolies. In order to achieve higher efficiencies, on the one hand, we must support the digital economy. However, we also need to control the digital economy. These issues are addressed in the recommendations made by the Justice BN Srikrishna committee. To create a framework for digital economy regulation as soon as possible, we must expedite the passage of the data protection bill.