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# **DAILY MAINS QUESTION & ANSWER**





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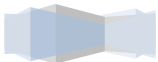
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**Q1. Due to their dependence on natural resources, women are disproportionately affected by climate change. Discuss the difficulties that women are facing as a result of climate change in this setting. What actions need to be taken to solve these issues?**

**GS I → Women Empowerment**

- One of the largest worldwide challenges of the twenty-first century has emerged as climate change. Location, social class, and gender all affect how the climate is changing. That the climate catastrophe is not "gender neutral" has been underlined by the UN. Climate change has a disproportionately negative impact on women and girls, amplifying existing gender disparities and posing special risks to their livelihoods, health, and safety.
- **Challenges brought on by climate change for women include:**
- **Impact on sources of livelihood:** Women rely more on natural resources, but they also have less access to them. Obtaining food, water, fuel, and other household energy resources falls overwhelmingly on women in rural areas. However, as droughts worsen, floods become more frequent, and rainfall becomes more variable, women will inevitably have to go further and spend more time obtaining these kinds of income.
- **Women in low-income nations work in occupations that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change, such as farming and other labor-intensive jobs.** Over 60% of working women in southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa are still employed in agriculture, where they are frequently underpaid and overworked, according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO).
- **Socioeconomic Vulnerability:** Women's socioeconomic vulnerabilities and poverty may be made worse by the effects of climate change. Inequality for women is related to climate change as well. Families are financially impacted by the climate issue, which causes them to lose their houses, means of support, and in some circumstances, even their properties. As a result, it becomes more likely that daughters will be married off at a young age, increasing the danger of child marriage.
- **Impact on health:** Due to their preexisting lack of access to healthcare and Medicare services, women's and girls' health is also seriously threatened by climate change. Risks are so increased even more, particularly those that pertain to mother and child health. Climate change has also significantly accelerated the spread of vector-borne illnesses like malaria, dengue fever, fever, and Zika virus. It is common knowledge that these illnesses affect maternal and newborn outcomes.
- **Increased violence:** According to a UN research, women and girls make up 80% of the displaced people due to climate-related disasters. Women who have been uprooted are more prone to discrimination, sexual exploitation, and violence. For instance, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) discovered that women were more vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation after the 2015 earthquake in Nepal.
- **Food security:** Agriculture's production is significantly impacted by climate change. For crop production and food security, changing precipitation



patterns and an increase in extreme weather events have serious consequences. Women who work in agriculture often lack technical knowledge and access to high-quality inputs. Women who work as farmers and workers are thus at greater danger.

**• The following actions can be performed to alleviate the problems caused by climate change for women:**

- Investing in education: If we want to be able to withstand the effects of climate change, we must make investments in women's education, training, and access to resources.
- Promoting sustainable agriculture: By educating people on sustainable agriculture, water management, and energy production, we can lessen the negative effects of climate change on people's living conditions. For instance, the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) teaches women farmers in India how to adapt to changing climatic trends in order to better sustain themselves.
- Gender parity in decision-making: Women's involvement in climate decision-making at all levels is essential for successful mitigation and adaptation policies as well as for landing quality jobs.
- Countries should work towards gender equality in local, national, and international climate planning and policy making, acknowledging the relevance of gender in climate planning.
- Gender Action Plans: It's critical to implement gender action plans for climate change. This necessitates funding participatory plans with a wide range of stakeholders and industries. This will also support utilising the distinctive expertise and viewpoints of women.
- As a result, climate change is a "threat multiplier" that exacerbates gender inequality by escalating socio-economic and political conflicts. As a result, women are particularly at risk.

This appeal asks women to take the lead on environmental initiatives and to participate more actively in adopting and mitigating climate change measures.

**Q2. Discuss the concerns brought forth in relation to the country's frequent abuse of the laws governing preventive detention. Exist any protections against the abuse of preventative detention?**

**GS II → Government Policies and Interventions**

- When the administration believes that a person may commit some wrongdoing that would be detrimental to the state, it may place that person in preventive custody. It permits the imprisonment of a person without their being put on trial or found guilty by a judge. The provisions for preventive detention are covered in Article 22 of the





constitution. Preventive detention cases increased by about 23.7% in 2021 compared to 2020, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

• **Problems associated with the country's widespread abuse of rules governing preventive detention:**

- In opposition to personal liberties: Preventive detention deals a fatal blow to those rights. Even in times of peace, the use of preventive detention is viewed as out of date.
- In violation of international standards: The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) states that no one may be arbitrarily detained or arrested. Furthermore, there is no equivalent rule in effect during peacetime in advanced democracies (such as the USA and Britain).
- It is used for frivolous reasons: In India, preventative detention has been used frequently, even for frivolous reasons. For instance, in Telangana, a man who sold subpar chilli seeds was jailed because he was a "goonda."
- It is paradoxical that the framers of the Constitution, who having previously been subject to the rules governing preventive detention, yet decided to give the government the authority to enact such laws within the terms of the Constitution. Preventive detention rules, according to the supreme court, are a vestige of colonialism and give the state arbitrary authority.
- Non-compliance with procedural protections: For many years, the Supreme Court and the High Courts have expressed concern about the executive branch's disregard for procedural safeguards while handling the rights of detainees.
- For instance, the majority of detentions are eventually overturned, and the most typical cause is an unjustified delay in the resolution of protests that the detainees file to the authorities in opposition to their detention.
- Preventive detention is typically opposed to democratic ideals and odious to the rule of law, according to the Indian Supreme Court in *Rekha v. State of Tamil Nadu*.
- **The rights and protections that are given in the context of preventative detention are covered by Article 22 of the Indian Constitution:**
- In order to give the detainee the opportunity to exercise their right to representation, the reasons for the custody should be communicated to them as soon as feasible. However, the state has the right to withhold information that it deems to be against the general welfare.
- The length of custody: Unless an advisory board finds appropriate grounds for extended detention, no statute authorising preventative detention may authorise the imprisonment of a person for a duration of more than three months. High court justices are to make up the board.
- The duration of imprisonment without consulting an advisory board was shortened from three to two months by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1978. This clause has not yet become effective, nevertheless.
- Right to representation: The holding institution must give the detainee the earliest opportunity to object to the detention order.



- Other protections: According to the supreme court, preventative detention cannot be used to combat routine law and order issues. It is a "exceptional power" of the state and should only be used in limited circumstances.
- A legislative framework is required to establish protections to ensure fair procedure when dealing with detention because of the increased frequency and ease with which preventative detention has been used throughout time. According to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), preventive detention regulations must strike a balance between protecting individual liberties and maintaining national security.

**Q3. Unchecked and unrestrained development is a deliberate invitation to disaster in geologically vulnerable locations. Describe how the effective application of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) standards can lower the risks associated with disasters in these areas. (150 Words)**

**GS III → Environmental Conservation related issues**

• **Introduction:**

• One of the most crucial instruments accessible to planners for achieving the objective of sustainable development, or development that limits environmental harm, is the environmental impact assessment (EIA). Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006 is a key instrument used by M/o Environment Forest and Climate Change in India to reduce the negative effects of rapid industrialization on the environment and to reverse any tendencies that could eventually result in climate change.

• **According to the announcement, the Indian EIA procedure includes:**

• In order to prepare an EIA, a project or activity must first be screened to see if more environmental research is necessary.

• **Landscape, providing information about natural water features and drainage systems:**

• localised persistent wind flow pattern

• Location of sanitary facilities in the area

• Scoping involves creating a thorough and complete Terms of Reference (TOR), addressing all pertinent environmental issues and questions, and developing an EIA Report.

• Public consultation: identifying affected individuals' concerns.

• Evaluation of project proposals: based on the results of the public hearings and the final EIA report.

• **EIA's contribution to disaster risk reduction (DRR):**

• Impact on the land is addressed by an analysis of land use in the EIA. It can aid in lowering the risk of mudslides, avalanches, large-scale erosion, and toxicity-related calamity in crucial ecosystems.

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- In Uttarakhand, for instance, recent GLOF (Glacial lake outburst flooding) may have had a lesser effect on the lower portions of the catchment if risk assessment had been conducted.
- Impact on Water: It discusses the usefulness of untreated effluents. Thus, it reduces the possibility of potential groundwater or surface water pollution, biological risks, or toxicity.
- Taking care of the air effect will reduce the possibility of tragedies like the Bhopal Gas catastrophe. Additionally, it lessens the possibility of other, less serious health risks such as emissions of sulphur or nitrogen.
- Taking care of the socioeconomic environment and lowering vulnerability-related risks: The EIA evaluates the communities that will be affected by a project as well as any indirect effects from changes to the local environment. This includes decreasing the vulnerability of communities to disaster threats.
- Environment protection: The environment is crucial for preserving equilibrium and lowering hazards.
- For instance, forests on slopes aid in carbon sequestration and lower the risk of landslides. Mangroves in coastal locations also lessen the effects of cyclones.
- Regarding the environment's impact on health, the EIA also gathers epidemiological data, such as studies on vectors. Such research can lessen the effects of zoonotic illnesses like the current COVID-19 crisis.
- **Conclusion:**
- Therefore, the EIA has the capability to anticipate environmental issues that may result from the development of a proposed project and address them throughout the project's planning and design stages. This lessens the project's exposure to disaster risk, which is also consistent with the Sustainable development goals. Disaster risk reduction is one of SDG 11's goals for creating sustainable cities.

#### **Q4. Discuss how the notion of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) contributes to value creation for a company.**

#### **GS III → Environmental Conservation related issues**

##### **• Introduction:**

• ESG investing refers to a set of criteria for a company's behaviour that is used to filter investments based on corporate policies and to motivate businesses to behave ethically. Customers, shareholders, and even employees want businesses to uphold high standards of sustainability, corporate responsibility, ethics, and transparency. Today, business success is characterised by much more than just profits. All of these demands are grouped together under the umbrella term "ESG" and should be met by businesses.

##### **• Three basic elements make up ESG:**





- Environment: The environmental component of ESG looks at how a company or organization manages the environment, with a particular emphasis on waste and pollution, resource depletion, greenhouse gas emissions, climate change, and other issues of sustainability.
- ESG's social criterion looks at how an organization's operations affect the labour and human rights of its employees and other members of the community. The conditions at work, diversity and inclusion, taking into account the long-term wellbeing of other stakeholders, pay parity, and equity are all included.
- Governance: The governance factor combines the function of independent directors and the effectiveness of the board in guaranteeing openness and the welfare of stakeholders through procedures, processes, and audit controls.
- **ESG's component parts:**
- **The following are some examples of how environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues are significant in adding value to a company:**
- Investor risk management and adaptation: ESG framework assists in identifying, organising, analysing, prioritising, and guiding decisions on a variety of company risks. If these risks are ignored, it may be expensive for firms to operate and survive.
- Reduced governmental and judicial interference: Companies can attain greater strategic independence and a reduction in governmental pressure by developing a better external value proposition. Furthermore, a company's risk of unfavourable government action is decreased because to ESG strengths. It may also win the support of the government.
- Enhances employee motivation by providing a sense of purpose, which in turn boosts employee engagement and productivity. Helps firms attract and retain great personnel. Higher job satisfaction among employees is also correlated with positive societal impact.
- Cost savings: ESG can also significantly cut costs. Among other benefits, correctly implementing ESG can help reduce escalating operating costs for things like raw material costs, the cost of water, or the cost of carbon.
- Enhances return on investment: ESG can also aid in enhancing investment returns by directing funds towards alternatives that are more promising and sustainable, such as renewable energy, waste reduction, and scrubbers. Additionally, it can assist businesses in avoiding stranded investments that would not be profitable due to long-term environmental problems.
- Future times will undoubtedly see an increase in transparency, connection, stakeholders' roles, and institutional investors' contributions. To combat corruption, ensure higher levels of ethics, compliance, conduct, and attention to stakeholder wellbeing, corporations and commercial eco-systems must implement procedures. Given that it includes all non-financial factors that have an effect on stakeholders directly or indirectly, ESG is essential in guaranteeing the long-term viability of enterprises.



**Q5. India's cleanliness campaign has been quite effective, particularly in reducing the prevalence of open defecation. Giving trash management the same emphasis, especially in urban areas, is becoming more and more crucial. Comment.**

**GS II → Government Policies and Interventions**

• The catchphrase for India's cleanliness campaigns over the past few years has been Swachh Bharat - Swasth Bharat. But the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the initiative's flagship effort, has primarily focused on rural areas of India. It offers financial aid for the construction of toilets and principally focuses on getting India to an open defecation-free (ODF) condition. It does little to solve other waste management problems, though.

• **Waste management is becoming more and more necessary, particularly in urban areas:**

• 1. Waste water management: The vast majority of sewage in India is allowed to enter rivers untreated. The availability of clean drinking water, the health of the river, and the existence of aquatic life are all impacted by this. There are now many harmful rivers. For instance, the Delhi Yamuna River is referred to as a biological disaster.

• 2. Solid waste management: The infrastructure is inadequate to address the trash challenge. In the dump yards of India's largest towns, there are mounds of trash that frequently catch fire and worsen the country's air pollution. Mumbai is home to Deonar Dumbing Ground, for instance.

• 3. Poor Recycling: India's ability for recycling is constrained by a lack of legislative efforts and expertise in source-segregated waste management.

• 4. In addition to emissions from cars and power plants, air pollution is also caused by untreated industrial pollutants, solid waste, and farm waste that is allowed to burn.

• 5. Because farm and kitchen trash increases microbial activity and toxicity when tossed outside, it is included in bio-waste treatment. Instead, this can be used to create manures and compost.

• 6. Risk of lead and mercury poisoning has increased as the importance of the electronic industry has grown due to the hazardous waste that includes batteries, screens, lams, chipsets, and other goods. Our grounds are poisoned as a result of this.

• 7. Cooking oil is once again a significant factor in the eutrophication of aquatic ecosystems when left untreated. You could use this to create biodiesel instead.

• Thus, it is clear that other facets of cleanliness must be given top priority in order to have a healthy India (Swasth Bharat). This, however, prohibits us from focusing on ODF targets because

• 1. Despite the fact that 36 states and UTs have been classified as ODF, this classification still only considers toilet design. It will need a big behavioural shift to put this into practise.



- 2. Even still, many of the latrines are dry, without sewer or water hookups, increasing the likelihood that they would be forgotten about.
- 3. Any careless monitoring strategy would lead to reckless behaviour in the field.
- **As a result, there is still much to be done:**
- The Swachh Bharat project, on the other hand, has recently broadened its scope and given greater emphasis to other facets of cleanliness.
- Rules for the management of construction waste, e-waste, plastic waste, and solid waste have all been introduced in an effort to increase recycling and waste management.
- The national biofuels drive and the RUKO organic waste initiative.
- The National Clean Air Programme and various other CPCB initiatives are covered by the Swachh Bharat mission.
- In addition to tap water, the Jal Jeevan Mission would upgrade the sewer connection to every residence.
- According to the Budget 2020-21, the Urban Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 would be implemented during a five-year period, from 2021 to 2026. The primary areas of focus include complete faecal sludge management, waste water treatment, source segregation of garbage, a reduction in single-use plastics, a reduction in air pollution by appropriately managing construction and demolition waste, and bio-remediation of all former dump sites. The SBM market would increase with such an endeavour.

## **Q6. Describe the challenges India has in sustainable urban and rural development.**

### **GS I → Urbanization related issues**

- 68.84% of people live in villages, compared to 31% who live in cities, according to the 2011 Census. However, 40% of India's population, or 600 million people, would live in cities by 2030, producing 75% of the GVA. By 2050, cities will be home to almost 800 million people, or 50% of the global population.
- As a result, India's top development objective is urbanisation. We need to create cities by 2030 that can hold twice as many people as they do today. There are many challenges with this.
- **Challenges in India's urban landscape transformation:**
- Slum expansion and haphazard construction.
- congestion/poor urban transport.
- Lack of open space and pollution.
- inadequate management of the sewerage and solid waste systems.
- Necessary services like power and water.



- Financial position of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs): The 2016–17 economic survey found that ULBs did a poor job of collecting taxes. In other states, local governments are not even permitted to collect property taxes.
- Limitations on Borrowing by ULBs: ULBs may only issue bonds in certain situations.
- In India, there are about 3900 municipalities, and 33% of the population lives in cities.
- The wide range of urban landscapes (from megacities to nagar panchayats) makes it challenging to implement a universal policy.
- Poverty as a whole: This makes it challenging to collect taxes and entails investing more money to create an inclusive environment.
- Lack of Private Investment: There is minimal private investment in urban development since governmental spending is prioritised over private investment.
- Despite low voter turnout, little voter interest in neighbourhood development has continued. This is evidenced by the lower-than-expected voter turnout in the municipal elections.
- **Among the issues that could be resolved are:**
  - 1. Increasing the tax distribution's allocation of funds for urban local government bodies.
  - 2. raising the borrowing limit for metropolitan municipal governments.
  - 3. letting go of the one-size-fits-all approach. The government has launched a number of schemes, including the Smart Cities project and AMRUT, for varied sized cities in consideration of this.
  - 4. Digitalization: offering a shared digital accounting platform, a consolidated view of sectoral outlays, and citizen-friendly government
  - 5. Using other initiatives, such as those for urban mobility, effective public transportation, and affordable housing. For instance, the PM Awas Yojana and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan can be used by the government to start greenfield urban initiatives.
  - 6. supporting diversified land use to make the most of the space that is available.
- The government has been promoting its major urbanisation initiatives, including as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, AMRUT, PM Awas Yojana, and Smart Cities Mission. We could achieve the 11th Sustainable Development Goal by creating inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements.

**Q7. In recent years, China has evolved an overtly combative foreign policy. What, in your opinion, explains this practise? What should India do in response to the resulting change in the geopolitical environment? (250 Words)**

## **GS II → International Issues**

- China's foreign policy has evolved over time to become more forceful. It has territorial



disputes with 18 countries. It has land disputes with Taiwan, India, and Bhutan. It disagrees with Indonesia and also asserts sovereignty over Paracel Island, Spratly Island, and Paracel Island in the South China Sea (all of which are also claimed by Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia, and the Philippines). Additionally, it has increased its activity in invasions over time. Sinkaku Island in Japan saw its longest and deepest invasion in 2020.

• **China asserted this for several reasons, including:**

- 1. Regional Dominance: China aims to establish itself as the dominant force in the area. Beijing may have learned that some countries in the region, like India, are reluctant to carry out Chinese directives.
- 2. Making the twenty-first century a "Chinese century" and rising to become a great power are among China's goals for achieving global supremacy.
- 3. The US is degenerating, and this is happening as the US military's sway over Asia is dwindling. US supremacy in Asia will expire by 2020, claims a US Rand Commission assessment.
- 4. Internal political turmoil is being distracted from, and the Chinese government is growing more worried about it. The number of demonstrations in Hong Kong in favour of freedom and against the ruling class has increased recently. Military aggression and nationalistic ideology have been employed to counter this.
- 5. Consolidation of the World's Supply Chains and Economic Reach: China has a number of covert economic interests-protection plans, including the Belt and Road Initiative, the Debt Trap, and the String of Pearls.
- China does not, however, have an interest in extending the conflict. China's military and political relations with India are of a limited scope. It is not in Beijing's best interests to choose to engage in a direct conflict with India because that could lead to an adverse military escalation with that country.

• **Therefore, it aims to:**

- 1. Small-scale military operations with the goal of militarily conquering India would be very advantageous for the Chinese political and military leadership; they are cost-efficient, less escalatory, and they effectively convey a message. Low intensity also implies that China has a history of preferring to maintain the status quo with regard to India in the area.
- 2. Securing its CPEC infrastructure: Given Islamabad and Beijing's close collaboration, a Chinese attack near Eastern Ladakh might imperil India's security along its western frontier and threaten its control of the Siachen glacier. China is interested in Central Asia for a number of reasons, including the CPEC and its access to the region, both of which are a part of its "Belt and Road" grand strategy.
- 3. Borders remain ambiguous: China made dubious claims in some international territorial conflicts (such as the South China Sea). Former Indian diplomat Nirupama Rao claims that these conditions are kept this way on purpose so that "there is always room for redrawing, and we have never had the opportunity to look at their maps."





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• **Conclusion:**

• India must be creative and open-minded, not complacent or rhetorical, as it has done effectively in Ladakh by using its own type of counter-coercion to combat Chinese coercion. Recent occurrences have compelled India to consider more strategically, including China's advancement on several LAC locations, the expansion of the definition of LAC claims, and the first fatalities along the LAC since 1975 [in the June 15 Galwan skirmish].

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