



Mainsure 2021 Test 10 Answerkey

1. Is overemphasis on preserving diversity a threat to India's unity? Discuss. (10 Marks) (150 Words)

ANSWER: India is blessed with a **multicultural, multireligious and multilingual** society that has immense diversity among the world. Its unity in diversity is unique in comparison to the global community.

At times, emphasis on diversity acts as a threat to the unity of country as seen in:

- (a) Religious diversity at times causes **troubles to the secular fabric** of the nation as witnessed in communalist tendencies, mob lynching based on religion etc.
- (b) Ethnic diversity in India and **tensions between different ethnic groups** do tend to compartmentalise the society. This could lead to episodes of ethnic hate speeches and pose a potential threat of ethnic cleansing as well. Eg: Attack against North East Indians in Bangalore.
- (c) Diversity leads to the **emergence of regionalism** based on affinity towards a particular region or a place. This can undermine the unifying factor of national unity. Eg: Demands for separate Dravidanadu.
- (d) Diverse groups coexist in each place on the basis of caste, class etc. The majoritarian groups try to impose their opinions on the minority. It can threaten the unity supplemented by the diversity in India. Eg: Dalit atrocities such as in Una, Bhima Koregaon etc.
- (e) Emergence of **caste based politics** due to favouring vote banks around the time of elections create a wedge in society.
- (f) **Demands for separate states** such as Khalistan, Gorkhaland etc. due to the ethnic and cultural diversity within a state itself.

Yet, the existence of diversity is supportive for the unity of India itself. This is evident in the fact:

- (a) Diverse groups coexist in India and cherish the common values of freedom fighters and nationalism.
- (b) Diverse geography is co promoted together by the Incredible India campaign to promote the tourism sector in India.



- (c) Diverse groups in India have common traits such as Vasudaiva Kutumbakam entrenched in them as they welcome and respect one another.

A country like India can only exist if the diversity and heterogeneous entities are mutually helping and supportive. Even after 70 years of independence, India still exists as a unified nation due to its unique unity in diversity.

2. Has the tribes in India been assimilated or Integrated into society? Illustrate using examples. (10 Marks) (150 Words)

ANSWER: Tribes are a social group characterised by the features such as isolation from the rest of mainstream society in terms of demography, economy, cultural practises etc. They also do not have any social stratification and role-specialization among themselves. Even though they are culturally distinguishable from others, their integration and assimilation into society has happened in varying degrees.

Tribes- Integration into society:

Integration of the tribal groups include preservation of the tribal people's rich social and cultural heritage in their private sphere but adoption of common cultural traits and values of nationalism in the public sphere. It was essentially the result of Nehruvian policy. Tribes are integrated into society as seen in the following cases:

- The constitutional safeguards such as the incorporation of Schedule V and Schedule VI states recognise the importance of safeguarding cultural traits, customs and practises.
- Similarly, the measures like Tribal Panchsheel, Tribal Sub Plan etc. are policies of integration as well. The policies of tribal Panchsheel include non interference in tribal lives, respect to tribal rights in forest areas.
- Policy of integration into society include **protective safeguards** like protection from social injustice, abolition of bonded labour and **political safeguards** like reservation of seats in Parliament and **developmental safeguards** like promoting the educational and economic interests of the Scheduled Tribes



- No over-administration of tribal areas. Efforts are made for administration and development of tribals through their own social and cultural institutions. Eg: Encouraging **tribal dormitories** among youth.

Tribes- Assimilation into society:

Assimilation is a process in which the culturally unique set of demography like tribes take over the culture and identity of mainstream society and becomes a complete part of that group. The assimilation of the tribes involves complete elimination of cultural differences of tribal groups and non-tribals. This can be generally observed in three different nature:

- **Least Assimilated Tribals:** The hill section of tribals which has exhibited greater power of resistance to the alien cultures that have passed upon their border. Eg: Kukis of Manipur.
- **Moderately Assimilated Tribals:** They are group of tribals who are partly assimilated and adopts practises of mainstream society like teetotalism, rituals and practises etc.
- **Successfully Assimilated Tribals:** Raj Gonds of Central India accepted manifold relations with mainstream populations. It is visible in the case of vertical stratification among the Gonds itself.
- Education of the mainstream society is assimilated into tribals. But the tribal students have different backgrounds from their non-tribal schoolmates and they do not understand the tribal students.

Tribes- Isolation from Society:

- Even though a lot of tribal groups are assimilated or integrated, yet there are tribal groups in India who are isolated from the mainstream society.
- Some of the examples include tribal groups like Sentinelese, Jarawas, Shompens etc. who live in extremely isolated situations and do not want the presence of any other groups near them.
- Such tribal groups are mainly in the category of **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups**.

The **Report of the Working Group for Empowering STs** appointed by Government of India emphasised on the three major changes in the tribal development policy of India over the years:

- Gradual shift in the strong protective role of the state towards the disadvantaged communities like tribals into justification of exploitation for



economic development. Eg: Indravati Dam in Odisha has displaced around 18,000 forest dwellers like **Kandh communities**.

- Alienation of tribal lands to non-tribals happened over the years. Eg: **Displacement of Gonds** in Hasdeo Arand forest region for coal mining.
- Addressing the problems faced by tribal regions in India such as Naxalism, political disturbances etc. as a case of law and order problems rather than as socio economic problems.

Thus it can be mentioned that a large portion of tribal groups in India are assimilated and integrated into the Indian society with varying success.

3. Social exclusion is more often a reason for poverty rather than a consequence of poverty. Discuss. (10 Marks) (150 Words)

ANSWER: Amartya Sen defines poverty as the lack of what one needs to live in society; not only to survive, but also for contribution and participation in society. The Tendulkar committee notes that 21.9% of the population in India is living below the poverty line.

Social exclusion refers to the omission of a person or a social group from the prevailing social system and its rights and privileges. This can occur due to the prevalence of poverty and also as a consequence of poverty.

Social exclusion as a reason of poverty:

- **Caste determined occupational roles:** There is a strong traditional association between positions in the caste and occupational hierarchies. The caste system forces lower castes to work as manual scavengers. Eg: Valmiki caste employed as manual scavengers.
- **Inequality:** Social inequalities like gender, caste systems, or tribal affiliations means there is no access to the resources to keep or lift a family out of poverty.
- **Feminisation of poverty:** The traditional gender roles associated with women in India increases inequality in living standards between men and women and as a result widening the gap in poverty. Women are forced to spend time on unpaid activities such as household work and care-giving for the elderly or for children, leaving little time for paid labour.



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- **Poor standards of education and health:** UNESCO estimates that about 30 million people can be lifted out of extreme poverty in India if they have basic reading skills and arithmetic knowledge.
- **Corruption:** Government through various schemes try to alleviate the poverty situation, allegedly only 30-35% actually reaches the beneficiaries due to wide-spread practices of corruption in the country.

Social exclusion as a consequence of poverty:

- **Inadequate access to basic facilities:** The poor and vulnerable are denied food and nutrition forcing them to further poverty and hunger. Eg: Denial of PDS benefits for those living below poverty line in Jharkhand.
- Gender inequality, poor standards in health etc. in turn contribute to the secondary factors such as lack of markets, poor infrastructure, poor leadership, bad governance, under-employment among various sections of people in India.
- **Low social development indicators: Economic Survey** has highlighted the challenges faced by the students belonging to poor and underprivileged sections of the society in getting a formal education, observing that they are pushed out of the education system in absence of suitable financial support system and the high burden of the course fee, especially in the higher education sector.
- **Inadequate access to financial resources:** It hinders the social mobility of the vulnerable sections in India. National Strategy for Financial Inclusion notes that some women in India still do not have the freedom and choice to access financial services because of cultural barriers.
- **Demographic reason:** Overpopulation in India affects the poverty figures and it remained more or less consistent because of great dependency on government capacity.

Poverty alleviation programmes and simultaneous economic development programmes have to be encouraged as well in India to develop capabilities of the citizens and reduce the threat of poverty in India. This requires the government assistance through programmes like MGNREGA, organisation of Self Help Groups etc.

4. The 21st century global health landscape requires effective global action in the face of globalization of trade, travel, information, human rights,



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ideas, and disease. Discuss the role and functions of WHO. Has WHO been able to meet its mandate? (10 Marks) (150 Words)

APPROACH:

- Mention the changes brought by globalisation for the health landscape in the 21st century.
- In this context, list out the roles and functions of the World Health Organisation.
- List out the success of WHO in terms of meeting its mandate

ANSWER: The **21st century health landscape** involves transfer of medical and public health knowledge on a global level. It involves sharing best practices, health promotion, prevention strategies and medical treatments. As a result, all countries benefit from international norms and standards and sustained global advocacy for health.

It has also accelerated the **spread of infectious diseases**, as evidenced by the rapid outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome(SARS), COVID-19 etc. in the current times.

The **World Health Organization** is the body of the United Nations (UN) responsible for directing and coordinating health. It has come to play a vital role as an actor in the field of international public health and international public health policy.

Role and Functions of WHO: WHO's constitution lists out the functions of WHO.

- To establish and maintain effective collaboration with the United Nations, specialized agencies, governmental health administrations
- To assist Governments in strengthening health services.
- To stimulate and advance work to eradicate epidemic, endemic and other diseases.
- Enhance cooperation with other specialized agencies for the improvement of nutrition, housing, sanitation, recreation etc.
- To promote and conduct research in the field of health;
- To promote improved standards of teaching and training in the health, medical and related professions.
- To develop, establish and promote international standards with respect to food, biological, pharmaceutical and similar products.



- Shaping the research agenda and stimulating the generation, translation and dissemination of valuable knowledge.
- Setting norms and standards and promoting and monitoring their implementation.
- Articulating ethical and evidence-based policy options for health management.
- Providing technical support, catalysing change, and building sustainable institutional capacity of health institutions .
- Monitoring the health situation and addressing health trends.

Success of WHO in meeting its mandate:

- One of the greatest humanitarian achievements of the 20th century, the elimination of Smallpox.
- **Evidence based Treaty:** WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control was negotiated under the auspices of the World Health Organization. The WHO FCTC is an evidence-based treaty that reaffirms the right of all people to the highest standard of health.
- **Primary Healthcare improvement:** WHO has played a key role in several health achievements, such as the Alma-Ata Declaration on primary health care.

Limitations of WHO in meeting its mandate:

- WHO's inability to control the spread of HIV/AIDS particularly in Africa has cast doubt on its effectiveness.
- **Inaccurate predictions:** WHO initially deemed that coronavirus was not a serious threat, and that China had quickly brought the pandemic under control.
- Donors unsatisfied with the WHO's priorities have set up their own competing global health institutions that pursue agendas different from the WHO's. These organisations include Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative etc.
- Health governance has fragmented as a result of the proliferation of global health institutions.
- **Regular budget cuts:** USA has announced that it will cut the regular budgetary grant given to the WHO on account of its delayed response to COVID-19.



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In spite of the current challenges faced by WHO, it stands top among various global health institutions.

5. Nutrition is not an option but a necessity for human development. Analyze the state of nutrition among Indian population. Mention some of the Government measures in this direction. (10 Marks) (150 Words)

APPROACH:

- Introduce the interrelationship between nutrition and human development.
- List out the state of nutrition in India with statistics.
- Mention the measures taken by the government to improve nutrition standards.

ANSWER: Nutrition is a process by which food substances are taken in and utilised for overall health and development. Better nutrition is related to improved infant, child and maternal health, stronger immune systems, safer pregnancy and childbirth, lower risk of non-communicable diseases (such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease), and longevity. This can automatically result in improvement in human development.

State of nutrition in India:

- As per **Global Hunger Index**, the percentage of **undernourished people** in the population is about 14.8% in 2018 whereas child stunting in India is at the level of 38.4%
- As per **NFHS report**, Anaemia is widespread in India--58.6% of children, 53.2% of non-pregnant women and 50.4% of pregnant women are found to be anaemic.
- **Gendered differences:** Under-five mortality rates for males and females, which stand at 38.4 and 40.4 respectively pointing to the son meta preferences in nutrition aspects.
- **Nutrition among communities:** Prevalence of stunting is highest amongst children from the Scheduled Tribes (43.6%) followed by Scheduled Castes (42.5%) and Other Backwards Castes (38.6%).
- **Double burden of malnutrition:** India suffers from both over and under nutrition.



- **Hidden hunger:** It occurs when the quality of food people eat does not meet their nutrient requirements, so the food is deficient in micronutrients such as the vitamins and minerals

Government measures to improve nutrition:

- **Policy measures:** Implementation of **Poshan Abhiyaan** to attain high coverage, quality, equity and better outcomes. Independent annual audit of the programme for improving implementation.
- **Community Participation:** Behaviour change through Information, Education & Communication and making Poshan Abhiyaan a Jan Andolan.
- **Targeted Approach:** Incorporate fortified food grains and double fortified salt within government programmes such as ICDS, mid-day meal scheme, and PDS.
- **Monitoring:** Home visits by ASHA workers, focus on first 1000 days of children through home based child care initiatives etc. can address issues of malnutrition.
- **Three Tier Convergence:** Engaging Panchayati Raj Institutions, Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committees, Public Distribution Services network and public health engineering departments along with State and Central government for delivery of action plans
- **National Anaemia Control Programme:** to incorporate panchayat level, primary health care, Health and Wellness Centre etc. to reduce preferences of anaemia.
- **Evidence based intervention approach:** through institutional support by the **National Nutrition Resource Centre and the Food Fortification Resource Centre.**

Case Study: Chhattisgarh initiated **Nava Jantan scheme** with involvement from SHGs, Mahila Mandals & corporate organizations. It includes identification of severe malnourished children and ensuring required services.

Thus, a multi pronged convergent approach by the government with active involvement of the PRIs. SHGs and NGOs can help to reduce the malnutrition issues in India.

6. What do you understand by casteism in society? Examine how casteism undermines democratic way of life in society. (15 Marks) (250 Words)



ANSWER: Caste system refers to a closed system of stratification which determines a person’s position on the basis of birth. The idea of casteism implies that the erstwhile existing caste system has transformed into identity and consciousness where a person or a group becomes conscious of their own self and regards it as important in life.

The prominent instances of existence of casteism in society are:

- Existence of caste based pressure groups where people of same castes are organised actively to promote and defend their common interests. Eg: Marwari Association in Rajasthan.
- Formation of caste based welfare boards to protect the interests of each sectarian group.
- Existence of caste based matrimonial websites implicitly bans people to marry outside one’s own caste.

Thus even though with the adoption of constitutional values, caste has weakened as a system over the period but still it has evolved into newer forms and currently exists as an identity in the society as casteism. This can severely undermine the democratic way of life in society.

Democratic values in society	Casteism: A threat to democratic values in society
Justice	Honor killings in rural areas through khap panchayats. Social boycott of Dalit groups by upper caste groups.
Liberty	Ban on inter religion and inter caste marriages. Practice of untouchability reduces the dignity of Dalit persons. Concept of dowry reduces the dignity of women.
Elections	Vote bank politics based on caste equations reduce the free and fair nature of elections. Emergence of caste based political parties and pressure groups by leaders like Mayawati.
Democratic Institutions	Casteism is manifested through caste based power struggle in institutions like Grama



	Panchayats.
Equality	Fragmentation of society and rise in caste consciousness among people separate people on basis of caste. Eg: Lingayat sect demands in Karnataka. Renewed demand for reservation on the basis of caste lines. Eg: Jat reservation demands in Rajasthan.
Others	Breakdown of law and order in society. Eg: Una violence in 2015 , Bhima Koregaon violence in 2018, atrocities against Dalits etc.

Caste system or its manifestations in society does not fit into the values and principles of modern times such as democracy, fundamental rights, individual freedom, equality etc. In fact, it can be argued that casteism impedes the values of modernisation in India. Encouraging caste based marriages, promoting modern value based education etc. can reduce the barriers of caste in society and build a democratic way of life.

7. “Regionalism is rooted in India’s manifold cultural, linguistic, tribal, ethnic diversities and encouraged by their regional concentration, fuelled by a sense of regional deprivation.” Discuss the statement in relation to the origin of regionalism and its interrelationship with subnational identity. Also analyse whether it can consequently bridge the socioeconomic and political inequalities. (15 Marks) (250 Words)

APPROACH:

- Brief introduction regarding regionalism.
- Describe how regionalism arises.
- Describe how regionalism brings positive impacts.

ANSWER: Regionalism is a phenomenon in which a homogenous region with distinct cultural, ethnic, racial, identity group asserts their interests over the national interests. That is, those who advocate regionalism asserts for the supremacy of small cultural units rather than the national unity. In India, it is



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the expression of the neglected socio-political elements which do not succeed to find expression in the mainstream polity and culture.

Eg: Sons of Soil movement in Maharashtra.

Regionalism: encouraged by diversities & regional deprivation:

- A recent trend is the emergence of identity politics which comes up with struggles around the assertiveness and conflicting claims of the identity groups fought on the lines of region, religion, language etc. Eg: Dravidanadu movement in South India.
- Regional movements over the years like separate statehood demands of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh etc. are the result of economic deprivation.
- Sons of soil policy identifies that a state specifically belongs to the main linguistic group inhabiting it. That is, it is not accommodative of diversity in culture in the society.
- In India, regionalism is a concept developed among the inhabitants who consider themselves as the deprived sections of the country in relation to the whole country. These deprivations generally arise out of the negligence of the government officials responsible for implementing the national developmental policy.
- Some movements like Dravidanadu emerged as a result of protest against imposition of national language, ie. Hindi as the sole official language in non-Hindi speaking areas.
- Some movements like Khalistan movement in Punjab are very violent in nature as well. As a result, such movements had to be suppressed before it became communal.

Regionalism: bridging the inequalities:

- Yet, some of the regional movements are valid as it focuses on the developmental indicators and improving the overall economic development in the region.
- The movements like Vidarbha movement or creation of an independent state of Vidarbha is aimed at improving the overall agricultural productivity in the region.
- Some of the statehood movements like Gorkhaland, Bodoland etc. aim at preserving the diversity of such regions. As a result, with the Autonomous Councils their concerns are much better addressed.



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- Some movements help to protect the endangered tribal identity and safeguard their culture as well. Eg: Tripura Tribal Autonomous District Council reduced political extremism in the state.

National unity will not be in danger if the people of a region have genuine pride in their language and culture. Regionalism, as such is not an issue rather it is necessary to sustain the unity in diversity of India.

8. Violence against women in public places is not a law and order issue, but a reflection of deep social pathologies. Explain. (15 Marks) (250 Words)

ANSWER: National Crime Record Bureau's Crime in India 2019 report that violence against women increased by 7% in India.

Violence against women- a reflection of deep social pathologies:

- **Patriarchal society:** Patriarchal ridden society gives privilege and entitlement to men in society and it normalises sexual violence against women.
- **Inadequate state action:** Justice Verma Committee constituted in the aftermath of the Nirbhaya case noted that the State has not provided basic amenities and guarantees in line with the Constitutional mandate.
- **Multiple subjugation of women:** Dalit women are placed at the very bottom of caste, class and gender hierarchies. They are subjugated by patriarchal structures, both in the general community and within their own family. Violence and inhuman treatment, such as sexual assault, rape, naked parading etc. serve as a social mechanism to maintain Dalit women's subordinate position in society.
- According to the **National Family Health Survey** data, the average age at death for Dalit women is 39.5 years against 54.1 years for upper caste women.



- **Gender Role Stereotyping:** Even in the contemporary situation, women are seen through the prism of mother and wife. Their roles are stereotyped so that they have to spend time doing household work. Consequently, women are subjected to severe domestic violence by men and family. Eg: NCRB 2018 data suggest that domestic violence top crime against women in India.
- **Cultural lag:** Although materialistic culture has modernised in India in synchronisation with globalisation and westernisation, a similar change has not occurred in the minds of people especially related to non materialistic aspects. Eg: Thakor community in Gujarat bans inter-caste marriages and mobile use by girls.
- **Absence of moral education:** Lack of proper education is a potent cause of moral depravity. It is through moral education that the formation of good habits and a sound character can be developed. Absence of it corresponds to events like heinous crimes , rape impacting the modesty of women

Violence against women- law and order problem:

The legal system is a reflection of the societal attitude towards women. The law and order problems faced by women in India include:

- **Judicial delays:** Judiciary interprets the laws in conservative, rigid and traditional manner. It is also crippled with delays in verdicts.
- **Issues with police:** Police inefficiency, corruption, connivance with the guilty and the police-politician nexus has been a major cause of crimes against women.
- **Legislative vacuum:** The protective laws are generally weak and full of loopholes, they cannot protect a woman in distress. Eg: The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act starts with the presumption that prostitution is inevitable and cannot be eliminated.
- **Failure of Institutions:** Crime Women Cell, Family Courts and Legal Aid Cell are understaffed and it was not successful in creating an attitudinal change in case of violence against women



Women will not be free from violence until there is equality, and equality cannot be achieved until the violence and threat of violence are eliminated from women's lives. Therefore measures to permanently eradicate the threat of violence needs to be undertaken.

9. There is no lack of welfare schemes in India, but still the real empowerment and upliftment of vulnerable sections are absent. Discuss the major reasons for the ineffectiveness of welfare schemes and suggest some measures to improve the situation. (15 Marks) (250 Words)

ANSWER: A welfare state is a form of government in which the state protects and promotes the economic and social well-being of the citizens based on equal opportunity, equitable distribution of wealth etc. India provides a lot of welfare schemes for the empowerment of vulnerable sections of the society.

Measures taken for welfare schemes	Reasons for ineffectiveness in welfare schemes
1. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme	Lack of provision about the provision of demanding work Gram Sabha are not convened regularly Poor maintenance of records like employment registers.
2. National Rural Livelihood Mission	Allocation based strategy rather than a demand driven strategy hinders formulating their own livelihoods-based poverty reduction action plans.
3. Ayushman Bharat Yojana	States lack internal capacities to implement the scheme. NITI Aayog estimates allocation of 12000 crore is necessary whereas only 2000 crore is allocated so far. Integrating the State and national transaction management system and lack of compatibility between them.
4. PM Employment Generation	Study commissioned by the MSME



Programme	Ministry has observed the scheme is plagued by delay in the process of sanctioning of loans at different stages.
5. Forest Rights Act	Powerlessness of the scheduled tribes and other forest dependent communities and complete dependence on the government to get the rights. Lack of coordination between the tribal, revenue and forest department on implementation of the Act. Ignoring the community forest rights over individual forest rights.
6. PM Gram Sadak Yojana	Non-adherence to planning procedure in execution. Needless evacuation of the people from their own land in the name of land acquisition.
7. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan	Prevalence of untouchability and manual scavenging. Discrimination of lower castes by the higher castes.

In addition to these, the ideal of welfare state is facing issues in India such as:

- According to the **Oxfam Report**, 73 percent of the wealth generated last year went to the richest one percent, while 67 crore Indians who comprise the poorest half of the population saw one percent increase in their wealth.
- The inadequacy of budgetary allocations are a cause of concern as well. For example, mid day meal budget has been increased from ₹ 9,700 crore to ₹ 10,000 crore from last year which is only a meagre increase when compared with the inflation level.
- **The National Commission for Enterprises** in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) found that only those in the formal sector, 8 percent of India's workforce, enjoys social security.
- India spends only **1.4 percent of its GDP** on social protection, among the lowest in Asia, far lower than China, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and even Nepal.



- The **target for DBT** was to cover 536 schemes across 65 ministries and departments. However, till now only 84 schemes across 17 departments and ministries were using DBT.
- Recent **ASER study** shows that roughly 50 percent of 14-18 year-olds, despite having been schooled, cannot read, write or do basic arithmetic.

Measures to improve the situation:

- **Basic necessities:**
 - PDS needs to be made universal and this ensures no starvation deaths like that in Jharkhand happens in future.
 - Enhance the supply of food products through PDS to address holistic nutrition security.
 - Citizens shall be encouraged to sign up for the Ayushman Bharat scheme.
 - Expand the coverage of financial inclusion and ensure the last mile connectivity so that social assistance programmes can be delivered through DBT.
- **Governance improvements:**
 - Adoption of **ICT technologies** in the principle of minimum government maximum governance.
 - Improving **inter sectoral coordination** and reducing the bureaucratic interferences in implementation of welfare schemes.
 - **Strengthen capacity of local governments:** Capacity building through regular training of public officials could help ensure effective and transparent implementation of public programs.
 - **Reward performance of service providers:** Monetary and nonmonetary incentives like job transfers to preferred locations, can be used as potentially cheap and effective rewards for good performance.

Thus, an all encompassing governance reforms are required to improve the welfare measures in India.

10. A surging population that has the potential to make India an economic superpower is now becoming a cause of concern. Discuss the concerns. What measures have been taken by the government to enhance the capacity of our population to be more productive and employable? (15 Marks) (250 Words)

APPROACH:

- Briefly discuss about the potential demographic dividend in India.
- Examine the state of India’s demographic dividend and the challenges in utilising its potential.
- List out the measures to enhance capacity of population.

ANSWER: As per the **Sample Registration Survey of India statistical report**, half of India’s current population of over 1.2 billion is under the age of 26 and the median age in India by 2020 is projected to be 29.

It makes India as the **youngest country** in the world and poses a **demographic dividend** for the country. This comparatively high young population in the country is intended to help India as **about 60% percent of its youth in the working age** group at present.

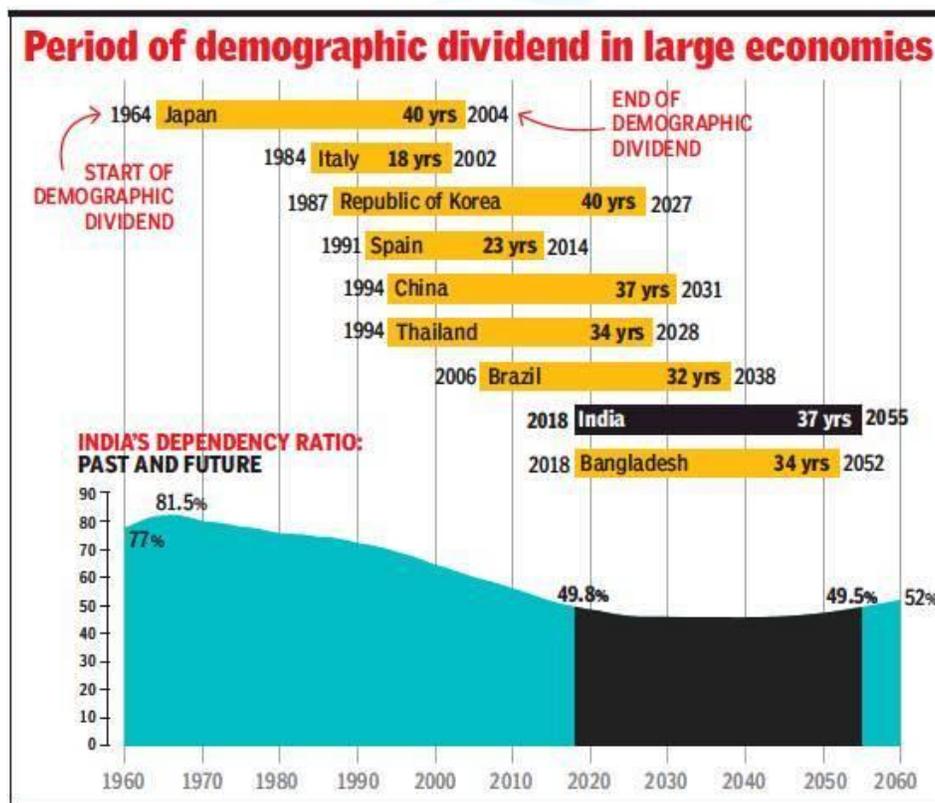


Fig 1: Comparative demographic dividend of countries

Concerns out of increasing population:



- **Poverty and Hunger:** NITI Aayog's report on the Sustainable Development Goals 2019 indicates that most states failed to tackle poverty and hunger and performed badly in comparison to 2018. The governance machinery is not yet able to tackle the issue comprehensively.
- India's labour force participation rate is declining especially among rural youth (15- to 29-year-olds) and women. **India National Voluntary Framework** review suggests that FLFP is only 23.2% in India.
- India does not boast of good, healthy development indicators. India's life expectancy at birth is **68 years**, much lower than what is seen in other developing countries.
- **Jobless growth** in the country. Because the industrial sector in India is not adequately focused post LPG reforms. The industrial sector was bypassed during India's growth trajectory.
- **Skill development** in India is substandard because the percentage of people receiving formal training in India is approximately 4% whereas it is 86% in South Korea.
- India has been given very little focus to higher education leading to the creation of uneducated and fairly unproductive labour. The GER for higher education in India is **26.3 percent in India** whereas it is **49% in China**.
- Dominance of the informal sector in the total share of employment. About 90% of the total employment in India is in the informal sector.
- Technological change is making labour partially or wholly redundant in a number of sectors, across the world.

Measures taken:

- **Rights based approach:**
 - Provide **demand driven employment** through **MGNREGA**. Increase the working hours and expand the budgetary allocation of the scheme.
 - Ensure food security through adequacy, accessibility and stability of the food supply through **universal PDS**.
- **Social development approach:**
 - The quality of primary education needs to improve. This requires government schools to be freed from state control and allowed to compete and innovate in response to community needs.
 - Need to invest more in the health sector as envisaged in the **National Health Policy**.



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- Create a suitable environment for enhancing the **female labour force participation rate** by reducing patriarchal attitude of society and providing security for women.
- **Employability Improvement Approach:**
 - Encouraging relatively low-skill labour-intensive industries like textiles, chemicals and food processing.
 - New teaching facilities on the basis of accreditation, and outcomes and structures for the same.
 - Improved infrastructure, skill development, access to easy finance, and reducing barriers to entrepreneurship.
 - Promoting growth of MSMEs to facilitate long term employment to youth.

Thus, adequate measures are required to deal with the issues of unemployability and to improve the **human capital development** in India.

