

2015

General Studies Paper-1: Insights Secure Compilation December 2015

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General Studies – 1

Topic: Colonialism

1Q. Right now, 14 Caribbean nations are in the process of suing Britain for slavery reparations. Are these nations justified in seeking reparations? Discuss with suitable examples. (200 Words)

Slavery was basically a term used during the Industrial Revolution times where the labors worked for their masters, or in industries in exchange of which they were promised a better livelihood in terms of monetary help/assistance. While the terms seemed luring, the consequences were not too good. Similarly, when the Britishers invaded around the world, also building British colonies in the subcontinent (India and China), there was a misconception and is till now that the colonies were benefited hence with large scale indigenous development, but after they left, the story hence was altogether different and unpleasant.

For example, the Indian plantation workers who were sent off to different places as workers, who could earn and come back after a bonded time, were a testament of long terms of unjust and repression. While it may seem the Indian colonies benefited from them being here, India's share of world economy declined from 27% to mere 3%. Similarly, the China's share of world economy dwindled from 35% to an all time low of 7%. This infact makes us intuit that the countries need reparations in the form of compensation from Britain.

Although the African countries seem justified in asking for the reparations, as they account for an important share of world's most vulnerable and economically deprived people, they need to learn from the other British colonial counterparts like India and China, who not only revived there economy through their policies, but are among the world's most developing economies.

Topic: World History

1Q. It is said that the student and workers protest across South African universities has highlighted the inequitable growth and racism that still exists even after 21 years of democratic rule. Critically examine the roots of apartheid, the movement against it and reasons why it still persists. (200 Words)

Apartheid as an official government policy of racial segregation in South Africa began in the 20th century, but the roots of inequality date back to colonial times in a country where blacks have always outnumbered whites. With the enactment of apartheid laws in 1948, racial discrimination was institutionalized. Race laws touched every aspect of social life, including a prohibition of marriage between non-whites and whites, and the sanctioning of "white-only" jobs. In 1950, the Population Registration Act required that all South Africans be racially classified into one of three categories: white, black, or colored.

An anti Apartheid movement sprang into existence both inside and outside South Africa. The internal anti Apartheid movement in South Africa took a step forward in 1949, when the conservative African National Congress (ANC) adopted a policy

advocating resistance in the form of civil disobedience, strikes and protest marches. In 1955, the anti Apartheid movement received a further boost with the adoption of the Freedom Charter, which espoused the vision of a non-racial South Africa. Finally the first truly nation-wide elections held and Nelson Mandela was elected as South Africa's first black president.

21 years after Mandela's victory, remnants of apartheid still exist in numerous ways. The country has one of the most unequal income distribution patterns in the world. Poverty in South Africa is still largely defined by skin color, with blacks constituting the poorest layer. Despite many ANC policies aimed at closing the poverty gap, blacks make up over 90% of the country's poor at the same time they are 79.5% of the population. Also the historically disadvantaged groups like rural populations, women, and blacks experience higher rates of unemployment.

So New policies and laws must be created and implemented to eradicate the evil of Apartheid that still exist in South Africa

Topic: *Indian culture, Globalisation*

1Q. What do you understand by indigenous knowledge systems? Why do you think a gamut of local health traditions remained “local”, while Ayurveda that drew from them and formalised it became global? What are the characteristics that differentiate the local from the global?

Analyse. (200 Words)

Indigenous knowledge Systems are defined as the knowledge developed by local communities and is based on their traditions, culture etc. Factors responsible for globalization of Ayurveda compared to other traditional systems are –

1. Structural –

- (i) Modern medicinal practices required fixed boundaries which led to the separation of Ayurveda from numerous other diffused systems
- (ii) Focus on Ayurveda's promotion by according it an exalted status compared to other systems

2. Economic –

- (i) In absence of any institutional mechanisms for regulation, promotion, research etc. for fringe systems, they are often exploited by vested commercial interests e.g. Jeevani drug developed with indigenous knowledge of Kani tribe
- (ii) Indigenous systems often lie outside the ambit of IPR protection as propounded in several conferences such as Tambunan Statement, Suva Statement etc.

3. Cultural –

- (i) Ayurveda, in the modern sense, is practiced throughout the country
- (ii) Alteration in the characteristics of traditional systems which is eroding the art's core traits (e.g. boxing attire for kalarippayattu)

Differences between the local and global can be seen as follows –

- 1. Global systems are accorded formal recognition to a greater extent compared to local systems
- 2. Greater commercialization of global systems which accrues higher profits for its practitioners

3. Greater research for continuous development of global systems to cater to a wider audience compared to local systems

2Q. “Jallikattu might be a popular tradition having evolved from a single man-bull combat in the past to the random spectacle that it is today, but that it is both irrational and against animal rights is beyond question.” Do you think banning sports like Jallikattu is a right decision? Critically comment. (200 Words)

Jallikattu is a bull taming event held in madurai and nearby areas during the pongal(harvest) season.Indus valley civilization also had such sports being practised.It is an inherent part of their tradition.SC had banned jallikattu in 2014 citing animal welfare issues.

Continuation of the ban is right because:

- 1) Animals should be treated ethically and hence need our care and protection.Prevention of cruelty to animals act,1960 support this claim.
- 2) Reports of bulls being killed have triggered animal rights activists to protect them.
- 3) In some cases,even the spectators watching them are killed due to inadequate protection
- 4) No presence of veterinaries in case of emergency
- 5) Panicked bulls also block traffic by running towards the main road creating chaos

However, it might not be favorable to continue the ban as:

- 1) Pongal festivals might be hampered ,jallikattu being so closely linked with their tradition
- 2) Political groups would'nt like to take a decision that affects it's people
- 3) It might trigger riots and disrupt society
- 4)Such traditions increase bonding and unity among people

The Government must find alternate methods to continue it without hurting the animal or people:

- 1) Follow the famous Spanish bullfighting example where measures taken to avoid lethal damage
- 2) Put effective protection (barricades, speaker announcements,clear demarcation) so that people are not hurt
- 3) Create awareness regarding apathy faced by animals.Sports personalities,film stars,eminent jurists can come forward

Topic:*Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues*

1Q. Critically examine the role of the Indian military in giving birth to Bangladesh. (150 Words)

The role of Indian Military in the formation of Bangladesh was as vital as of a nurse in birth of baby. It is evident through the following

1. The all three wings extended their armed support to Bangladesh. Special Frontier Force of Indian army extended artillery support to , INS Vikrant, Operation Trident ,Operation Python, blocked the naval rout and Indian Air Forces retaliated the Pakistani fighter jets and combinely they gave deadly brunt to restive enemy forces.
2. Indian military informally arm trained thousands of Bandgladeshis in guerrilla warfare as Muktibahini and Ganobahini to fight for their libration.
3. Apart from arm and training the Indian Military also provided them Intellegence support trough RAW to envisage and execute the war strategies.
4. Shelter support to war victims and issues of surrendering armies and refugee settlements were also handled assisted by military at ground level.

Although the intention of Indian Govt and action of Indian Military both were good and humanitarian and certainly we succeed in doing so still wars always leave behind some negative byproduct. Covert armies militarized the nature of some parts of the Begali society and this led to elements of extremism later on, which coupled with radical religious fundamentalism have been a source of worry for b'desh even today.

Now the Bangladesh is marching towards an emerging economy and peaceful democracy , and relations between India Bangladesh getting stronger, the credit owes to the contribution of Indian Military at the genesis of Bangladesh .

2Q. “It was not the British government that seized India at the end of the 18th century, but a dangerously unregulated private company headquartered in one small office, five windows wide, in London, and managed in India by an unstable sociopath – Robert Clive.” Critically comment. (200 Words)

British came as a trader first during Mughal era. East India company (EIC) was just another European trading company with sole motive of doing business and gain higher profits. From setting first factory at Surat in 17th century till end of 18th century (1772 regulating act , to be precise) EIC business saw very little interference from British government. It was 1857 revolt which led to complete control over by British crown. Hence the "set-up" of Indian empire was essentially a trade event.

-In this regard an EIC officer Robert Clive played an important role.

-He led company forces in 1757 Plassey war, defeated Sirajudaulah and later Buxer war(1764) formally made EIC de-facto ruler of North India.

However treating these events as a complete detachment from British crown will be a mistake.

EIC did play a crucial role in establishing colonial empire but it did had support of British government.

1. Competition with other European companies: The Dutch, the French and Portuguese east India companies were also present. However British EIC was more successful because of Royal support and strong navy.
2. Influence of European politics: Carnatic war (1748-1759) of India was influenced by French- British seven years war in Europe at the same time. Thus there was a "synchronization of affairs'.

Thus though EIC was the main player in establishment of colonial empire in India, it did had the moral, strategic and symbolic support of British government.

Topic: post independence consolidation

1Q. Why did China withdraw from captured Indian territory in 1962?

Also examine how did America help India during this War. (200 Words)

From Chinese point of view there were issues for this aggression like giving refuge to Dalai Lama in 1959, India's forward policy to cut supplies of PLA by setting forward posts. In this background, reasons for Chinese withdrawal can be seen below:

- 1.) Achieved its objectives: Removing Indian forward posts, PLA had reached its claim lines i.e. Macartney- McDonald Line.
- 2.) Not willing for an extended war: As China was engaged in Vietnamese war and civil war at home, so she could not open a front for extended war as US started supporting India militarily though for other reasons.
- 3.) Winter's Onset: As winter started there could have been serious setbacks for China as supplies would have been cut off in the difficult terrains.

Even though India didn't go to US for support choosing Soviets first. But after seeing USSR's unwillingness to go against another communist country at height of cold war in the backdrop of Cuban crisis, India turned to US for whom India seemed a perfect democratic ally to stop the expansion of communist power in South Asia. US intervention in 1962 war can be summarised as:

- 1.) Diplomatic:
 - a.) US pressurised Pakistan successfully to not to make advances in Kashmir and other conflict zone to free up military resources for China front.
 - b.) Criticized China's aggression and for the first time acknowledged Mcmohan Line as international border.
- 2.) Military:
 - a.) Dropped arms and other supplies at war front to support Indian troops.
 - b.) Dispatched USS aircraft carrier for Bay of Bengal.
- 3.) Other:

Took photographs of war front to help India strategize better as India didn't have any maps for the terrain.

Even though India-US coordinated well their relationship could not get on the highway due many reasons. India-China war proved to be a turning point for the foreign policy of India as it changed its course from idealistic to a pragmatic one under future India leaders.

Topic: *Salient features of Indian society*

1Q. Why the practice of foeticide is still prevalent in India despite many measures taken by government to stop this practice? In your opinion, how can government stop this practice? Critically examine. (200 Words)

Despite several efforts by the government at various levels foeticide is still prevalent in India. Some Reasons are :-

- 1- Preference of male child over girl child because of several misconceptions such as boys produce source of income whereas girls are consumers.
- 2- Customs like dowry degrade the position of women and present them as burden on parents.
- 3- Legalization of abortion.
- 4- Technological advancement in the health sector.
- 5- Ineffective implementation of The PCPNDT Act 1994 (Preconception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act)

Measures by Government :-

- 1- Effective implementation of schemes like 'Beti padao Beti bachao' and 'Sukanya Samridhi' etc.
- 2- Strict punishment and high penalties on the families who opts for it.
- 3- Zero tolerance policy against the medical practitioners. For example- Cancel their license, ban their clinics and put heavy penalties along with punishment.
- 4- Integrated efforts with NGOs, Panchayats, Ashas, Students etc in creating awareness through campaigns, seminars and street plays.
- 5- Assessment of the status of women (regarding female mortality, sex ratio, literacy and economic participation) should be done regularly.
- 6- Provide single institutional mechanism for the females which includes counseling, legal and moral support, medical care and protection against forced foeticide.

Government and society has to come together and make this country safer for the women

2Q. “Ageing strikes at the very roots of the welfare state and the social contracts on which social democracy rests.” Discuss the impact of ageing on society and economy. (200 Words)

The society prospers when there is a equilibrium in age, opportunity and resources. If anyone equilibrium is disturbed then the peace of whole society will disturbed. Age equilibrium is disturbed in many developed countries like Japan and Russia. The impacts are very diverse

Impact on society

1. Chances of Break down family relationship since fewer young generation take care of large aged population.
2. Many suicidal attempts since neglected care from young generations.
3. Change government policy example education spending to healthcare services.
4. Number of old age homes increase and results in segregation from main stream society.

Impact on economy

1. Increasing dependency ration so more tax burden current working population.
2. Increased government spending on health care and pensions.
3. Shortage of workers or less productive workers
4. Change in market demand, more demand for good and services with respect to old age people.
5. Reduces capital investment since more savings.

The ageing population has many negative impacts; however the aging population provide some opportunity and contributes for society.

1. Many years experienced knowledge can utilized for productive work.
2. Directly or indirectly reduces crime in society.
3. Creates compassionate society which is less focused on material things.
4. Less competition or crowd for education so quality education can provided and good job opportunities.

The country or society or any organization can sustain when have a good equilibrium in which all age groups are balanced. But inevitable demographic change should not ignored and country should be ready to take care of citizens, young or old, with the best opportunities.

Topic: Role of women

1Q> Haryana's new criteria for eligibility to contest in panchayat elections are said to have created gender imbalance. Critically examine why. (150 Words)

The state of Haryana has recently made education as a compulsory criteria for eligibility in Panchayat polls, citing education to be an important enabler in effective discharge of duty. Not only this measure excludes a large chunk of rural society but is specifically biased against women.

- 1) Presence of a large number of women in Panchayats has had a deep impact on gender equity. But this would prevent 68% of Dalit women and over 50% of all women from contesting panchayat elections.
- 2) It is more concerning because Haryana has been notorious for country's worst sex ratio, and women have to battle great odds to get (if at all) functional literacy: lack of infrastructure, general lawlessness, mindset of parents etc. So we see that being educated or not is not their choice, it's made for them by society.
- 3) Lastly, it'll make panchayat seats open to very few women from the elite section of the society, often with political backing acting as proxy candidates for men in the family. IT'll lead to unequal representation.

Positives:

Curb proxy election

educated women in GP will not subservient to male members in GP

will increase the enrollment in schools and hence education coverage.

2.compulsory toilet will solve sanitation and health issues to a large extent.

3. Effective planning and execution of schemes by PR.

4. No dues criteria will help in bringing financial discipline and make institutions financially sound.

5. Other states may pass the similar acts and hence benefits can be reaped nation wide.

Barricading their participation in only institution of direct democracy based on this goes against the spirit of justice and quality before law (article 14).

It also violates of the principle of affirmative action to women guaranteed under the Constitution as well as the CEDAW Convention – to which India is a signatory. Without their participated they can't be empowered.

Hence the Government should first focus on ensuring education for all, and then move on to this criterion.

Topic: Poverty and developmental issues

1q. How is the Human Development Index calculated by UNDP? Compared to its neighbours, India's progress in HDI is slow. Analyse in which areas India needs to improve to better its HDI ranking. (200 Words)

Human Development Indicator(HDI) is calculated by the UNDP basically a composite mean, main aim is to compare the well-being of the people across different countries. It is calculated by taking the geometric mean(GM) of three indices:

- 1) Life Expectancy rate.
- 2) Education
- 3) Gross National Income (GNI).

Compared to our neighbours, our country's progress is low(Srilanka emerging the winner in the subcontinent.)

The above is because India lacks in different parameters set by HDI. So India needs to improve in :

- 1) Education : The primary school enrollments have been in par and the MDG target has been met. However, the number of female dropouts after 8th have been high as compared to males. The education budget was cut recently. Efforts in the right direction can make changes in this.
- 2) Health : Although India has eradicated half of HIV and TB patients, still we have the largest population of TB patients in India. Health expenditure is mere 2% as compared to 18% of GDP in USA. Clearly there is a need increase this expenditure. This would mean a better life expectancy,MMR, IMR in par with countries like Japan.
- 3) India has been a major inequality booster. Gender pay gap has been one of the highest, lobbying even the world rankings. This requires a long term measure of change in patriarchy, through ICT and education + women empowerment through jobs in health, tourism, electronics manufacturing etc.

The need of the hour is to utilise PPP models, reduce bureaucratic influence, boost infrastructure for internet connectivity so as to connect every corner and greater push towards education which can be the major contributor towards a better HDI.

Topic: Regionalism, communalism

1Q. Give a brief account of conflict and human rights issues that India faced in 2015 and likely to face in 2016. (200 Words)

India, the world's most populous democracy, continues to have significant human rights problems. But longstanding abusive practices, corruption, and lack of accountability for perpetrators foster human rights violations.

Human Rights Issues:

1. Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA): which permits soldiers to commit serious human rights violations with effective immunity. Members of security forces implicated in serious rights abuses continued to enjoy impunity, in large measure due to India's laws and policies.
2. Maoist Insurgency: Maoists operations extend to nine states in central and eastern India, finding support in regions with weak governance, infrastructure and basic public services, such as health care and education. Maoist insurgents known as Naxalites continued to target government schools and hospitals.
3. ISIS : The hidden war mostly through internet where disgruntled youths are being radicalized is something new in 2015. Indian law enforcers fighting hard to shield the country
4. Radical Hinduism: The recent political strides the country went through have created certain apprehensions for minorities and human rights activists as well, Governance, development are the main issues to be solved whereas certain radical elements are trying to divide the nation based on ideologies.
5. Jammu and Kashmir: While violence in the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir has been on a decline, security forces responsible for serious rights abuses remain effectively immune from prosecution under the AFSPA.
6. Freedom of Expression: The government continued to use the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA) to restrict access to foreign assistance by domestic nongovernmental organizations.
7. Protection of Children's Rights: Children remained at risk of abuse, with a large number forced into dangerous forms of labor, and without proper access to health care and education, vulnerable to sex trafficking, homelessness, forced labor, drug abuse, and crime—and need protection.
8. Death Penalty: India maintains that it imposes capital punishment in only the "rarest of rare" cases.

We need to develop our diversity as our strength not weakness. And this can only be done by being tolerant to each other. As famous saying "United we stand Divided we

fall". Government, Civil Society and the common people need to unite and should help India to make a march towards the Ultimate goal of a Inclusive and Developed India.

Topic: Distribution of key natural resources

1Q. The government is working on a policy to boost investments in the petroleum sector in the Northeast India. Examine why and which places are rich in petroleum in this region. (200 Words)

The factors responsible for the drafting of a new policy for oil exploration in NE India are –

1. Government's objective to reduce import-dependency on oil by 10% by 2022 and transform NER into a hydrocarbon hub under the 'Make in India' initiative
2. Economical extraction of shale reserves in India due to improvement in fracking technology
3. With about a quarter of India's petroleum reserves, this region's production is only about 12%
4. Discovery of extensive oil reserves in Myanmar and Bangladesh which increases chances of similar discoveries in NER due to geological similarity

The likely positive impacts of greater oil production which spurs investment are –

1. Parity in the development of the NER with the rest of the country
2. Rising economic prosperity may act as a counter to separatist tendencies
3. Greater energy availability will give an impetus to trade with ASEAN
4. Employment opportunities to the largely educated youth of NER

Regions of NER which are rich in petroleum –

1. Assam – Digboi, naharkatiya, Rudrasagar
2. Arunachal Pradesh – Kharsang, Deomali and the Dishang trap
3. Nagaland – Changpang, Tsorri
4. Manipur – Banskandi, Badarpur

With the renewed interest in NER on the back of 'Make in India' initiative, the region has been opened up for private firms for exploration and production which augurs well for the petroleum sector in NE.

2Q. Do you think the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (Tapi) gas pipeline would be a major step towards regional integration?

TAPI gas pipeline has been called to a remarkable step towards regional integration as well as cooperation. With the US backing this project, this project seems to complete till 2018. The following will be its benefits :

- 1) Afghanistan's central role as a land bridge connecting energy-rich Central Asia to energy-deficient South Asia is seen as a major friendship booster, specially after the amount of insurgencies and presence of Taliban militants.
- 2) India- Pakistan partnership can be benefitted, where regional diplomacy and life-long hatred may turn towards economic cooperation.

3) Turkmenistan has been supplying energy to Afghanistan on favorable terms. This project would increase the supply by 5 times, increasing the diplomatic relations.

4) Growing relations between Afghanistan and India was seen with suspicion by Pakistan (+ Durand Line border + Water issue) but this project may heal all wounds.

However, certain problems still remain unaddressed :

1) Taliban has always been an irresponsible militant group which may try to damage the pipelines. (Recent Kandahar attacks) But heavy military troops have been deployed for the same. (+ aerial roots and helicopters to repair the damaged parts can be employed)

2) Balochistan insurgency is also a problem which can be rectified only by talks and not force.

3) The royalty and pricing issue is still unclear which may lead to disputes in future, thus a backdoor for dispute redressal is also an important aspect to be looked into.

We see that the scope of regional integration and cooperation is more than the loopholes, hence this project can be a win-win situation for all the involved countries.

3Q. Gems and jewellery contributes 13 per cent of India's overall merchandised exports. However, India doesn't trade in rough diamonds. Examine why. Also examine if India has taken any measures to allow trade in rough diamonds and how this measures is likely to benefit India. (200 Words)

Gems and jewellery constitute 13% of Indian exports but India does not trade in rough diamonds. Reasons-

1. Global miners have not set any office in India.
2. Absence of world class display and distribution centre.
3. Buying rough diamonds is tedious because diamantaires have to go to global trading centres for auctions increasing their commuting costs which increase the overall prices. Importing diamonds is also expensive since these diamonds cross multiple borders and many middlemen enter the chain.
4. MSMEs did not participate in online auctions conducted by Global miners, and hence pay huge amounts to these local diamantaires (middlemen).
5. Absence of uniform duty structure followed worldwide based on presumptive taxation policies.

In India, the Customs Department determines the prices and duties of the diamonds scaring the Global traders.

6. There are foreign trade policies that permit free import and trading of rough diamonds but the absence of custom notification has hindered the trade.
7. Incorrect market surveying which in 2014, led to local diamantaires buying and polishing in huge numbers despite no market requirement. These diamonds could have been traded.

The inclusion of middlemen and crossing multiple borders increases the overall price of diamonds. To ease trade Government has taken the following measures-

- 1- Exempted income arising out of the display of rough diamonds from income tax
- 2- Rough diamonds which are being sold on tender will be displayed within the the country to registered potential buyers.

- 3- Direct dealings between mining companies and Indian diamantaires within the country
- 4- Setting up Special Notified Zone (SNZ)
- 5- Commencement of World Diamond Conference in Delhi and active participation by top leadership.
- 6- Strong marketing campaigns at the consumer level and at the wholesale level

Benefits to India :-

- 1- Role of middlemen and heavy commission will be eliminated thus Indian traders will get direct and more benefits. It will give more relief to small and medium traders.
- 2- This will help large mining companies to directly sell in India as it will bring down transaction cost for them. This will also help in boosting our exports.

The measures will help India become a major diamond trading centre and also increase India's exports. However, the presumptive taxation should also be kept under watch since this may become an avenue for money laundering. Concerted efforts by the Government and these trading firms would benefit India's diamond industry.

Topic: *Locational factors of industries*

1Q. Examine the locational factors and problems being faced by tobacco industry in India. (150 Words)

Locational factors of Tobacco crop in India:

1. Tobacco is very sensitive to the physical and chemical properties of the soil. The best soils are those which are open, well drained and properly aerated.
2. The plant is highly susceptible to injury from flooding or inundation of the soil. However, it grows in a wide range from irrigated lands in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh to semi-irrigated cropping in Bihar, Bengal and Karnataka to dry farming in Andhra.
3. Its different varieties like Cigarette tobacco, Lanka tobacco, Bidi tobacco, FCV tobacco, etc. require variable agro-climatic conditions and thus are collectively weather resilient.

Problems faced by Tobacco Industry in India:

1. Climatic vagaries - extreme drought or deluge like conditions.
2. Pests - caterpillars, stem borers, fly and grasshoppers, and diseases, adversely effecting viability of crops.
3. Negative publicity affecting their sell.

4. Policy and legislative measures of government to curb their uses.
5. Contrabands and smuggled tobacco produce from foreign countries.

Being drought tolerant, short duration and labour intensive crop, it benefits small and marginal farmers, tribals, rural women and weaker sections immensely. Therefore suitable policy measures should be initiated to ensure sustainable shift from tobacco cropping, and till then, sustainable yield of produce must reach to poor beneficiaries.

2Q. Why is fisheries categorised as sunrise sector in India? Examine the problems and prospects and measures taken by the government to boost this sector. (200 Words)

Fisheries is categorised as sunrise sector due to its recent resurgence and growth potential. Post independence the fish production has increased 7.5 lakh tonne to 100.50 lakh tonne. It constitutes about 1% of the GDP and has been growing at about 4% annually.

Prospects

India has a long coastline of 7500 km and many rivers, lakes that have remained underutilised for this sector.

It engages over 14.5 million people directly and many more indirectly.

India has become the second largest fish producing and aquaculture industry in the world.

All the 3 subsector: Inland, Aquaculture and Marine fishery are growing but at sub optimum level. A lot of scope for improvement with boost in food processing industry.

Problem :

*Shortage of quality and healthy fish seeds and other critical inputs.

*Most of the fishermen are poor. They are not able to purchase good equipment to improve the harvest of fish

*Problem of marketing, storage, and transportation. Absence of standardization and branding of fish products

*Pollution and Climate Change

*Inadequacy of research and extension service facilities.

*Energy requirement particularly in the marine sector will remain a binding constraint.

*Diplomatic hurdles and miseries to fishermen families esp. for Tamil who cross maritime boundaries accidentally. Unresolved maritime border is another issue.

Measures taken by Government:

1. Merging all the existing schemes to formulate an umbrella scheme 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries' with an outlay of Rs. 3000 crore.
2. Allowing 49% FDI in deep sea fishing.
3. Strengthening of Database & GIS of the Fisheries Sector,
4. Amending the CRZ rules and launching the Sagarmala scheme to compliment this sector

5. Encourage increasing private investment, entrepreneurship development, more Public Private Partnership (PPP) and better leveraging of institutional finance

3Q. Discuss the locational factors, recent shifts in its production bases and problems of sugar industry in India. (200 Words)

Sugar industry is one of the most important Secondary sector industries in India employing near about 2 million workforce.

Sugarcane is the main source for sugar in India, Sugar industries will be setup in the sugarcane producing areas generally for ease of transport storage and maintenance and also since Sugarcane is a Perishable good.

So if we look at the factors responsible for growth of Sugarcane, we can easily understand the location of Sugar Industries:-

1) Locational Factors:

- a. CLIMATE :- Warmer Climate is needed, that will provide Better Yield
 - b. Proximity to the ocean because of which the difference between the Max. and Min. temperature becomes low and thus increases yield.
 - c. Soil:- Black Lava soil, which is fertile and retains water is good for sugarcane production.
- Along with these factors,
- d. Easy availability of Transport should be present.
 - e. Labour availability should be there.

Seeing the factors above the latest trend is that these factories are shifting towards South or Deccan in the parts of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh. Majority of the above factors are present in these areas. For Ex. Maharashtra has black soil, proximity to ocean, Transport in the Form of Mumbai Port, Absence of loo which was proving to be detrimental.

Problems of Sugar Industries:-

- 1) Low Yield of Sugarcane:- India has the largest area under sugarcane cultivation, the yield per hectare is extremely low as compared to some of the major sugarcane producing countries of the world.
- 2) Short Crushing Season:- Manufacturing of sugar is a seasonal phenomena with a short crushing season varying normally from 4 to 7 months in a year. The mills and its workers remain idle during the remaining period of the year.
- 3) Fluctuating Production Trends:- Sugarcane has to compete with several other crops and also land available to it is not constant every year so the Production Fluctuates.
- 4) High Cost of Production:- High Cost of Sugarcane, inefficient technologies all build up to the cost of Production.
- 5) Small and Uneconomic Size of Mills:- Most of the sugar mills in India are of small size with a capacity of 1,000 to 1,500 tonnes per day. This makes large scale production uneconomic. Many of the mills are economically not viable.
- 6) Regional imbalances in distribution:- Over half of the sugar mills are located in Maharashtra and U.P only and many other parts like Kashmir and N.E are not so developed which lead to regional imbalances.

Topic: *Critical changes to geographical features and their effect on flora and fauna*

1Q. Examine how climate change will impact women compared to men. (200 Words)

While it would be extraneous to connect climate change with women, as both men and women are likely to suffer from the changes/ disasters, recent reports show us a different story. The main reason behind this can be attributed to the gender inequality.

- 1) Climate change (FLOODS, DROUGHTS) results in more death of women than men according to London School of Economic survey. Example : The Tsunami in Srilanka and the southern coasts reveal that more number of women died than men. As less number of women are trained to swim and climb trees as compared to men, they die during floods
- 2) The liability to bring water, fuel from far off places is the primary responsibility of mainly the women. During forest fires, drought, when they are unable to do so, they are subjected to domestic violence.
- 3) Unequal health services to the women has primarily been due to the patriarchy prevalent which denies more care and facilities to the females in terms of health beneficiaries. Delayed hospitalization is more common in girls than boys. This leaves the females more vulnerable in case of climate change/disaster.
- 4) Certain cases and studies reveal that women are less likely to adopt to the changed circumstances than men i.e. they have a lower "decision-making" power to fight these situations as compared to men. Hence in most cases they have to depend on their male counterparts while facing climate crisis.

Because of cultural reasons women get less access to information (information is crucial against disaster risks)

In the world number of poor and illiterate women is more compared to men

women are involved in child bearing and taking care of sick and elderly, this decreases their mobility

at policy making level women are under-represented.

While the women have registered their presence in the combat services, which requires more of the analytical skills and decision making power, it must be understood that a proper care can fill the lacuna that these studies show, exists. Certain measures like fostering linkage between disaster risk reduction and climate change with gender perspective through policy intervention, better training services can fill this gap.

2q. "Land degradation is posing a major threat to India's food and environmental security." Discuss. (200 Words)

Land degradation means change in the quality and characteristics of the soil due to which its fertility is lost, either due to natural phenomenon like water and wind erosion or it can be human induced too.

Now, land degradation is posing a serious threat to India's food and environmental security. Some of its reasons are as:

- 1) Due to the excessive use of pesticides, the degradation of soil is increasing reducing its efficiency. Also, it is giving rise to environmental problems as these chemicals later mix with water.
- 2) Dumping of non-biodegradable trash like plastic is a major factor in land degradation which is a serious concern.
- 3) Due to increase in industrialization and urbanization, requirement of the land has increased causing agricultural and environmental impacts.
- 4) Deforestation, which is a major factor of land degradation, is on the rise. It surely provide timber and fuel but due to this, GHG gases are on rise and impact on climate is high.
- 5) Intensive cropping and over-irrigation, mainly for increasing the productivity, result in land degradation and loss of fertility of soil.

Surely, we need to improve our productivity but not at the cost of depleting environment. Methods like Strip farming, mixed cropping, using check dams, less use of pesticides with moderate use of technology can help us in maintain our food security without playing with mother nature.

3Q. Discuss the importance of wetlands and measures needed to preserve them, especially in India. (200 Words)

The significance of wetlands in India can be seen under the following heads –

1. Ecological –
 - (i) Play a crucial role in the water cycle, nutrient cycle and carbon cycle, and in soil stabilization
 - (ii) Supports a wide variety of species like pelicans, flamingos, crustaceans, mangrove varieties etc.
2. Economic –
 - (i) Wetlands like Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary attract large number of tourists
 - (ii) Help in recharging groundwater, prevent coastal erosion and hold a repository of species which may be of immense medicinal value
3. Cultural –
 - (i) Source of rich folk traditions and literature
 - (ii) Migrant species are of immense interest to birdwatchers

However, despite their significance, Wetlands have been facing immense pressure due to urbanization, environmental pollution etc. Measure which can be taken to protect them are –

1. Legal –
 - (i) Subsuming provisions of all laws currently involved with wetland conservation
 - (ii) Inclusion of greater number of Wetlands in the Wetland inventory Atlas and under Ramsar Convention
2. Environmental –
 - (i) Conservation of watersheds of rivers through afforestation programmes, agro-forestry, ground-water recharging etc.
 - (ii) Strict monitoring against the introduction of exotic invasive species

3. Technological –

- (i) Use of GIS for flood-zone mapping, habitat mapping, water resource management etc. to enable scientific adoption of conservation practices
- (ii) Scientific methods of farming by using Micro-irrigation, non-invasive agricultural seeds, bio-fertilizers etc.

Topic: Urbanization

1Q. “A technology-first approach to smart city development, without a clear understanding of local conditions, traditions and realities, will often fail to result in sustained, community-wide change.” Discuss the socio-economic factors that smart city project should consider in making it successful. (200 Words)

India’s Smart City Mission aims to bridge socio-economic divide through sustainable development and inclusive growth. Citizens are central to its success, and following socio-economic factors need to be considered to make it citizen centric:

- 1) India is a diverse country with a lot of difference in type of economy, employment, social conditions etc amongst various cities. Eg. Visakhapatnam has trade based economy and Allahabad’s economy is driven by small scale enterprises. This problem is magnified as none of the Indian cities have a master plan. So off-the-shelf technology solutions are not viable and economic differences between cities needs to be recognised.
- 2) Most of the cities singled down are in need of ‘retrofitting and redevelopment’ as compared to starting from the scratch. Therefore, bottoms up approach needs to be adopted where each aspect is tailor made as per needs of that region.
- 3) The realisation that smart cities are not meant to widen digital divide but to help bridge intra-urban gap as well as rural-urban divide is especially important.
- 4) Safety of women, children and senior citizens, health, clean environment (and thereby green energy), transparent e-governance, and efficiency are central to providing quality life to citizens. For this one major thing government needs to focus on is improved governance and change in mindset + behaviour of people.

These considerations are important for the long term objective, where smart cities emerge not only as drivers of economic growth in India but also a vehicle for distributing fruits of development

2Q. Reckless urbanization is blamed for the frequent floods that affect many of Indian cities. What measures should be taken to avoid floods such as the one being witnessed by Chennai? Examine. (200 Words)

Humans cannot stop the rains from falling or stop flowing surface water from bursting its banks. These are natural events, but we can do something to prevent them from having great impact such as floods. Here are a few

- 1) use the urban parks as sinks, avoid the excessive use of the asphalt and the cement

- 2) Improvement of drainage efficiency by Constructing efficient drainage channels
 - 3) Radar estimates of rainfall and general weather forecasting techniques for good flood forecasting
 - 4) Flood-plain management
 - 5) Construction of flood protection structures and proper mitigation measures like reservoirs, buns, piers and dams
 - 6) Undertaking soil conservation measures , which will improve soil water intake capacity
 - 7) Rain water harvesting to store maximum amount of rain water
 - 8) reduce impervious surfaces in the streets, parking lots and buildings through natural drainage channels, porous paving, and wetlands.
 - 9) Illegal logging and improper development must be controlled
 - 10) Costruction of green belt around the cities
 - 11) Implement proper solid waste management
- 2) ageing infrastructure in the cities and the land subsidence across vast stretches due to various reasons.
 - 3) -increasing shift and concentration of the population in urban areas that has caused uncontrolled development which has resulted in the encroachment over flood plains in nearly all major cities
 - 4) -urban expansion has pushed the city limits outside the traditional defense mechanisms set up against flooding

A lot of experience has been gained with recurring floods Mumbai and Chennai . A proper authority under head of the state should look after the flood control measures with implementation in time bound manner as nothing is costlier than a life in the world

3Q. Write a critical note on the importance of public transport as an instrument to fight pollution in Indian cities. (150 Words)

Transport accounts for a substantial and growing proportion of air pollution in Indian cities. This calls for a greater share of public transport in meeting mobility needs. It has the following advantages

- 1) Public transportation saves fuel, reduces an individual's carbon footprint, and reduces congestion
- 2) Public transit moves people efficiently while producing significantly less air pollution to move one passenger one mile
- 3) I will be easy to implement the usage of eco-freindly fuels in public transport system
- 4) A bus with as few as seven passengers is more fuel-efficient than the average single-occupant auto used for commuting
- 5) The fuel efficiency of a fully-occupied public transport system is greater than that of the average commuter's single-occupant auto

Hovewer there are some challenges in public transport systems such as

- > more usage of diesel in buses causes air pollution
- > less safety for women
- > irregular schedules

A well developed transport system has positive implications for access to healthcare, education, and other basic needs. Public transport operators and governments, therefore, need to focus much more on factors influencing demand

4Q. Discuss the importance of conservation of wetlands, open space and flood plains for sustainable urban growth. (200 Words)

The recent steps by the state as well as the aims/targets of SDG clearly indicate that urbanization is the need of the hour and the main focus of states all around. However the focus should further be shifted towards a sustainable urban growth by :

- 1) Conservation of wetlands : WETLANDS can improve water quality, absorb heavy rain and reduce the risk of flooding effectively. Some of our wetlands are the habitat of endangered species. These areas make sure low-middle income jobs are always available around (fishery, pisciculture). Example : Chilika, kolleru and Loktal.
- 2) Open space : Land, forest cover, farms provide public benefits as well as ecosystem services. It makes sure an economic prosperity is maintained and hence a sustainable growth of urban areas take place. This can further act as a major carbon sink and hence fulfill INDC's.
- 3) Flood plains : The sediments left behind on a floodplain after a flood can bring in remarkable fertility, which would make sure agriculture is boosted and hence people don't suffer with seasonal unemployment. This would also mean reduced risks of devastations like Chennai and may in turn be fruitful.

Along with all this, better housing and economic growth can be fruitful for sustainable urban growth.

5Q. A UN panel report on climate change in April 2014 placed Delhi among three of the world's largest cities that are at high risk of floods; the other two being Tokyo and Shanghai. Discuss why Delhi is vulnerable and what measures need to be taken by authorities in Delhi both to prevent and mitigate such disasters. in future. (200 Words)

Delhi's vulnerability to floods can be seen under the following heads –

1. Natural factors –
 - (i) Increased storm frequency and intensity due to acceleration of hydrological cycle as a result of climate change
 - (ii) Periodic increase in Yamuna's water level due to high rainfall in its catchment area
 - (iii) Gradual shifting of Yamuna's course due to geological changes in the Aravalli ridge
2. Anthropogenic factors –
 - (i) Lowering of groundwater sink-zones leading to increased run-offs
 - (ii) Clogging of the storm-water drains
 - (iii) Unplanned construction on Yamuna's floodplains

Measures which can be taken are –

1. Structural –

- (i) Increase embankment heights along Yamuna in line with the increased maximum flow limit
- (ii) Constructing a parallel channel to the south of Yamuna to carry away flood discharge
- (iii) Restructuring of the drainage system to ensure it can handle increased flow
- (iv) Constructing sink zones to prevent run-off

2. Regulatory –

- (i) Regulation of the Hathni Kund barrage to ensure a continuously low level of water in the reservoir
- (ii) Preventing illegal river-bed mining to address increased erosion along the Yamuna river bank
- (iii) Building construction in strict accordance to the NDMA's flood-zoning plan

3. Mitigative –

- (i) Establishing search and rescue teams among local communities themselves
- (ii) Emergency relief structures with provisions for food and medicine
- (iii) Urban forestry and, establishment and maintenance of water bodies

6Q. “The Smart Cities Mission should aim to provide citizens a better quality of life using social and cultural yardsticks instead of focussing merely on physical infrastructure.” Discuss (200 Words)

It is well-known that the initiative of smart cities being pursued in India should not only focus on physical infrastructure but should also include some other features in order to bring competitiveness, sustainability and quality of life.

In totality, a smart city should possess the following-

Institutional infrastructure (including governance)

- 1) Governance by incentives rather than by enforcement to include active participation of citizen in decision making process i.e. local level decision making
- 2) Putting up deterrent to civic indiscipline to inculcate greater sense of respect for civic discipline
- 3) Ensuring that decisions are taken without any arbitrariness, discrimination and subjectivity through working on information on a real time basis
- 4) Breaking down the current practice of working in silos to ensure greater institutional integration
- 5) Fully automated municipal offices to deliver service in real time, through It based facilities

Social infrastructure

- 1) Quality educational facilities
- 2) High quality healthcare facilities and ensuring electronic health record and telemedicine
- 3) Security of citizens through policing
- 4) Adequate services to Persons with Disabilities

Economic infrastructure:

- 1) Services need to be financially sustainable so that there are no financial constraints to delivering quality services

- 2) Creation of a start-up ecosystem
- 3) Spreading the culture of innovative thinking
- 4) Providing relevant skills and adequate job opportunities

However, physical infrastructure cannot be completely neglected as it acts as conduits to good quality life. Physical infrastructure should focus on the following

Urban Mobility:

- 1) Improvements in public transport- Metro rail, Bus Rapid Transit, Light Rail Transit, Monorail
- 2) Improvement in infrastructure of other motor vehicles- ring roads, bypasses, underpasses, elevated roads, improvements in the existing road ways
- 3) Improvement in infrastructure for walking, cycling and waterways

Water supply:

- 1) Smart metering for reducing loss and energy consumption
- 2) Sensors in supply system that measure water consumption, water levels and water flow rates on real time basis

Sanitation:

- 1) Provision of toilets in each and every household
- 2) 100% recycling in sanitation system e.g. in New Moti Bagh township in New Delhi

Solid Waste Management:

- 1) Segregation of recyclable and non-recyclable wastes
- 2) Treatment of waste at decentralized location
- 3) Effective collection and disposal system

Storm water drainage:

- 1) Conserving potable water and at the same time prevent water pollution
- 2) Un-linking storm water drains from sewerage network

Electricity:

- 1) Smart metering at household level and establishment of smart grid system and its integration with renewable sources
- 2) Strengthening existing distribution and power banking systems
- 3) Green building and green transport to reduce the need of electricity
- 4) Integrated billing system for a variety of services such as electricity, water, gas, internet, house tax etc
- 5) User friendly payment platform for online payments

Internet and telephone:

- 1) High level of telephone penetration
- 2) Fiber optic connectivity to each home
- 3) Wi-fi in all public places and educational institutions with good internet speed

Urban development:

- 1) Parking space requirements
- 2) Transit oriented development along public transport corridors

Entertainment:

- 1) Concert halls, auditoriums, cultural centers, open spaces and plazas

Sport:

- 1) Children park, stadium, swimming pools, neighborhood sports complex, golf courses

7Q. Critically analyse if the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill of 2015 addresses the major concerns of flat/home buyers. (200 Words)

The Union Cabinet's clearance of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2015 has come as a shot in the arm for buyers, who have been at the receiving end of innumerable malpractices at the hands of builders.

Lets analyse the provisions of the Bill and how they will address the problems of Buyers:-

- 1)Mandatory approvals before launching project:This Provision will save buyers from getting trapped in unapproved fake project advertisements.
- 2)Adherence to timelines:Buyers were distressed of delays in the project, but the bill has a provision under which buyers will be entitled to full refund of the money paid including interest and compensation in case of delay.
- 3)Enhance Transparency :- Mandatory Public Disclosure of all project details' including details of promoters, project,names and addresses of real estate agents, contractors, architect, structural engineer etc.
- 4)Consumer Courts: Aggrieved buyers needn't approach the proposed real estate authorities and can move district-level consumer courts across the country instead, thus ensuring speedy adjudication of disputes.
- 5)Adherence to sanctioned plans: The provisions of the Bill will not permit the builder to modify the plans, structural designs and specifications of the land, apartment and/or or building without consent of 66 per cent of the buyers.
- 6)A key amendment is the provision for depositing 70% of the money received by the builders from buyers for a project into an escrow account.It would act as a safeguard against uncertainty over a project in the event of the builder backing out.

But Still Some Grey Areas are left in the bill :-

- 1)calling upon builders to deposit 70 per cent of sale proceeds in a separate account will lock the cash and force the builders to rely on further borrowings, the cost of which will eventually be borne by the buyer.
- 2)While the Bill seeks to keep builders on a tight leash, it prescribes for practically no punitive action against sanctioning authorities who are vested with the powers to grant project approvals.
- 3) Insistence on getting all approvals could delay commencement of construction by several months, thereby curtailing supply of new built-up property.

Topic: Population

1q. The ministry of Statistics and programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released data for to India's progress on gender-related fronts. Analyse its important findings. (150 Words)

1- Sex ratio has been climbing in urban areas - The most probable reasons for this positive trend is awareness, education and state's proactive measures.

2- Wide variations in sex ratio among religions - The best speculation about this finding can be the 'patriarchal mindset' but again significant difference in sex ratio among Hindu, Muslim and Sikhs communities do not support this argument as they are equally men dominated societies.

3- Delhi, Assam and West Bengal marked the best improvement in sex ratio in the country - Female literacy is one among several other socio-economical reasons for this trend. States like Bihar with lower female literacy level are also having the lowest improvement in sex ratio.

4- Infant mortality rate - On one hand the declining mortality rate confirms improved medical facilities and nutrition but on the other hand gap between boys and girls babies indicates that still a degraded mindset is prevalent in our society.

5- Enrollment of girls in schools has increased because of easy access to schools and initiatives like 'mid-day meal' program.

6- Women's participation in workforce has declined as there is less availability of work in their native area, infrastructural deficiencies and so called 'patriarchal mindset'.

2q. Analyse the causes and trends in growth of Buddhist population in southern states of India. (200 Words)

Buddhist community forms a miniscule proportion of population in the southern states. However, this was not the case in earlier times and Buddhist population in southern states has seen many phases:

Phase of growth: Before 3rd century AD

The Buddhist population grew because of the following reasons:

- 1) Buddhist missions to Sri Lanka by Asoka and his son Mahinda were to go through South India
- 2) Monks residing in monasteries became medical practitioners and offered free medical services and education. This caused the people to assemble at monasteries and they got the 'gyan' of Jataka tales
- 3) Monks ignored caste differences and this was a relief to the oppressed classes and they turned towards Buddhism

Phase of decline: 7th-14th century AD

- 1) Invasion of religion of North India and Jainism in South India
- 2) Buddhism split into different sects
- 3) Buddhist monks gave up social services and became self centred
- 4) Preachers of Jainism and North India religion defeated monks in debates and they fled to Sri Lanka

Phase of deterioration/steep decline: 14th-20th century AD

1)Hinduism began to take deep roots in South Indian society and Buddhism suffered a setback

Phase of minor growth: 20th century AD

1)Conversion of Scheduled castes into Buddhists, called Neo-Buddhists in order to escape the caste system of Hinduism

Phase of near stagnation: Early 21st century

1)Neo-Buddhists are not provided with caste certificates to ensure that there are no more conversions

2)Realization that benefits are being extended to SC/STs rather than Buddhists

3)Irregularities in collection of data because of which Buddhists are not recorded in census data

Provision of healthy environment to allow all communities to flourish should be the way forward.

3Q. In recent months a debate is going on claiming one religious community is outstripping other in terms of population growth. To what extent can religious or cultural differences explain differences in population growth? And to what extent can differences in incomes explain differences in fertility rates. Discuss. (200 Words)

India is a paradise of culture, thoughts, language, region and religion diversity. Recent studies shows on population growth shows disparities of growth rate among various religion and community.

It shows higher in Muslin population growth than Hindu and decline in population growth in Sikhs. There is almost no change in growth in Christian population.

However various studies suggests female literacy rate, Income level, education and urbanization determine the Fertility Rate and there is no "Hindu Fertility" or "Muslim Fertility" or "Christian Fertility" as such.

National Family Health Survey(NFHS) have shown that fertility of Hindu in UP is higher than their fertility in Tamil Nadu and same is applied for Muslim. This explains that region is the factor determining fertility differences.

Moreover, the female Literacy rate have greatest beating on fertility across the stales, followed by per capita income and urbanization.

Differences in income also affect the fertility rate because as income increases, the information increases which promote for quality life rather than quantity. and hence prefer less number of child.