

2015

General Studies Paper-2: Insights Secure Compilation December 2015

Table of Contents

Topic: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Education, Human Resources.....9

1Q. In your opinion, why is coaching industry thriving in India? Should it be regulated by a watchdog? Critically comment. (200 Words)9

2Q. It is said that here is a global auction for professional middle-class jobs and that middle class parents have no choice but to use their financial and cultural assets to get their children the marketable knowledge, certificates and networks that the credentials of a brand-name university provides. Do you think it is justified to pay huge amount of money as fees from junior KG to university education to get a decent job later? What are the other reasons that have caused huge rise in private school and college fees? Critically comment. (200 Words)9

3Q. In the five years since the potentially transformative Right to Education Act (RTE) was implemented, several studies have documented the decline and stagnation of learning levels in school . What are the causes? Should amendments be made to RTE act? Critically analyse. (200 Words) 10

4Q. A recent study has proved that students taught in mother-tongue perform better in primary schools than their english medium counterparts. Do you think states should make an effort to impose and impart school education in mother-tongue and teach English only as an optional subject? Critically analyse. (200 Words)11

5Q. The gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education in India has improved to 23.6 per cent in 2014-15 from 21.5 per cent in 2012-13. Has this improvement been translated into improvement in quality of higher education? Critically examine. (200 Words) 12

6Q. Do you think Computer-based testing (CBT) should be introduced in our education system on a larger scale? Examine the merits and demerits. (200 WOrds)..... 13

Topic: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health..... 14

1Q. What do you understand by Non-Polio Acute Flaccid Paralysis (NAAFP)? It is said that India might be polio-free but it is reporting the world’s largest number of NPAFP. Examine why. (200 Words) 14

2Q. “TB is the leading infectious killer, yet countries still follow old and dangerous [TB diagnostic and treatment] policies. Outdated tuberculosis policies are risking further spread of drug-resistant TB.” Critically discuss measures taken by India to fight Tuberculosis. (200 Words) 14

3Q. The data from the Rapid Survey on Children conducted in 2013-14 shows some but patchy progress between 2005-06 and 2013-14 in maternal and child health indicators. Critically examine the causes of poor progress in this regard. (200 Words) 15

4q. Define the following health indicators: stillbirth rate; perinatal mortality rate; infant mortality rate; maternal mortality rate. Examine how India’s fares in these indicators compared to its neighbours. (200 Words) 16

5Q. Overall, to improve child nutrition it is vitally necessary to improve healthcare services, women’s empowerment, social protection and ensure better water supply and sanitation. Elaborate. (200 Words) 17

6Q> *The World Health Organization (WHO) in its first global estimates of preventable food-borne diseases has reported that 600 million people (one in 10) fall ill and 420,000 die every year from contaminated food. Write a critical note on these food-borne diseases, their impact in India and measures taken by Indian government to prevent and treat these diseases. (200 Words) 17*

7Q. *What are the criticisms made against universal health insurance subsidy schemes? Are they valid? Critically examine. (200 Words)..... 18*

8Q. *The Union government has decided to amend the law in order to guarantee women working in the private sector 26 weeks' maternity leave, up from the 12 weeks they are now entitled to. Discuss the merits of this amendment and also examine if India should also consider amending the act to provide similar leave to fathers. (200 Words) 19*

Topic: Issues relating to poverty and hunger. 19

1Q. *What are the root causes of farm distress in India? Why do you think state interventions have failed to halt farmer suicides in parts of Maharashtra and Karnataka? Critically analyse. (200 Words) 19*

Topic: Devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein; Performance of schemes 20

1Q. *Should the next Union budget further reduce the number of centrally sponsored schemes? Discuss. (200 Words) 20*

2Q. *Critically comment on The Supreme Court's endorsement of the Haryana government's decision to prescribe educational qualifications for candidates contesting panchayat polls. (200 Words)..... 21*

Topic: Important aspects of governance; Role of civil services in democracy 22

1Q. *India has one of the lowest ratios of government employees to population in the world. Do you think India should increase jobs both qualitatively and quantitatively, and also their pay, to improve efficiency in administration? Critically examine. (200 Words) 22*

2Q> *"The Achilles heel of the Indian Police is the inadequately staffed, under-equipped, and soulless police station, something that has brought ignominy to the whole force." In your opinion, what needs to be done to change this image of police in India? Critically discuss. (200 Words) 23*

Topic: Salient features of Constitution 24

1Q. *Articles 17, 23, 24 of our Constitution are said to be great gifts of Babasaheb Ambedkar and it is said that implementing these articles in their true spirit will be a great gift to him on his 125th birthday celebrations. Critically discuss. (200 Words)..... 24*

Topic: India and its neighborhood- relations 24

1Q. *Comment on the challenges that the new government in Myanmar would face as a democratically elected government. Examine if India can help Myanmar in this regard. (200 Words) 24*

2Q. *Do you think India has failed in its Nepal policy by allowing it to become more assertive and giving China a strategic upper hand in Nepal? Critically comment. (200 Words) 25*

Topic: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests26

- 1Q. Briefly examine the history of ASEAN, India's engagement with it and reasons why India's economic and strategic relations with southeast Asia continues to be weak. (200 Words)26
- 2q. With the lifting of Western sanctions, hydrocarbon-rich Iran is positive on finalising an agreement with India for setting up a \$4.5-billion undersea gas pipeline. Examine how this deal would benefit both countries. (200 Words)27
- 3Q. It is said that Japan plays a central role in India's current 'Act East' policy. Examine why. (200 Words)27
- 4Q. Discuss the issues affecting implementation of TAPI pipeline project and, if implemented, its benefits for India. (200 Words)28
- 5Q. Write a critical note on Japan's contribution to development of India's infrastructure and its impact on India – China relationship. (200 Words)29
- 6Q. Some critics are opposed to the prospect of an India-Japan nuclear deal. Examine why and comment if their arguments have any merit. (200 Words) 30
- 7Q. "The 10th ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at Nairobi essentially failed to strike a much-needed balance between the interests of developing and developed countries in international trade." Discuss. (200 Words) 30
- 8Q> "From India's point of view, the Nairobi declaration of WTO talks was disappointing on multiple fronts." Critically examine. (200 Words)..... 31
- 9Q. Write a critical note on India – Russia joint defence cooperation initiatives. (200 Words)32
- 10Q. It was said that the three pacts between India and USA – the Logistics Support Agreement (LSA), the Communication and Information Security Memorandum Agreement (CISMOA) and the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) would ensure that inter-operability between the Indian and US militaries was smooth. However, many objections have been raised against these pacts in India. Do you think these objections are valid? Critically examine. (200 Words)32
- 11Q. "By signing the nuclear and high-speed rail deals with Japan, India inches closer to the anti-China alliance led by the United States." Do you agree with this view? Critically comment. (200 Words)33

Topic: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests; Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate34

- 1q. What do you understand by Special Drawing Rights (SDR)? Recently Renminbi was added to SDR basket. Examine its implications for China and India. (200 Words)34
- 2q. It is said that India faces several dilemmas in ratifying the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). Examine why. (200 Words)35
- 3Q. It is said that if India sheds its inhibitions and participates actively in the implementation of China's One Best One Road initiative, it stands to gain substantially in terms of trade. Critically examine. (200 Words)35

4q> Critically discuss the issue of the issue of huge trade distorting farm subsidies of the rich countries and its consequent adverse impact on millions of resource poor and subsistence farmers in developing countries, and India's stand on this issue at WTO. (200 Words)36

5Q. Analyse the impact of recent interest rate hike by US Federal Reserve (Fed)'s on Indian economy. (200 Words)37

6Q. Competing economies like China have been dumping goods to keep their factories running. Critically examine how dumping affects Indian economy and what measures can India take to address this issue. (200 Words)38

7Q. Europe achieved continental unification through economic means, liberal constitutionalism and a currency union. Do you think Europe practises same liberal principles when it comes to intervening in foreign matters? Critically discuss. (200 Words)38

8q. It is said that IT sector in India is vulnerable to some of US policies vis a vis this sector. Examine why. Also discuss what measures can India take in this regard. (200 Words)39

9Q> Do you think agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) have undermined the WTO? Critically comment. (200 Words) 40

Topic:Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate..... 41

1Q. India prefers to participate in peacekeeping missions rather than peace enforcements under UN leadership. Do you think, it is time for India to change this stand? Critically comment. (200 Words)..... 41

2Q. Critically analyse the contribution of International Bank of Reconstruction and Development to India's socio-economic development. (200 Words)42

3Q. What do you understand by the Doha Development Agenda (DDA)? What is India's stand vis a vis DDA? Examine. (200 Words)42

Topic: Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability43

1Q. It is argued that if pay commissions cannot bring about systemic changes, then they should be done away with. Do you agree? Critically comment. (200 Words)43

2Q. As the RTI starts its second decade, it is argued that India's government should ensure that information provision has a more impersonal face and this requires the government to invest in a data infrastructure that will allow it to go from passive to active transparency. What do you understand by active transparency? Why automation is needed in RTI? Discuss. (200 Words)44

3Q> It is common to hear from common man that government officials and public servants are not doing their job, they are insensitive, they are not accountable, they do not care, they are never punished and they never reach out to the people. Do you think a strong accountability legislation will change the attitude of public and civil servants? Critically discuss. (200 Words)45

Topic: e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential;45

1Q. Recently Kerala was declared as India's first digital state. Examine what e-governance measures have helped Kerala bag this distinction. (150 Words)45

Topic: Mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of vulnerable sections.46

1Q. According to a recent report, among all registered cases of serious crimes against women, the largest share was under “cruelty by husband and relatives”. WHY do you think, despite enactment of Domestic Violence Act, violence against women in households continue to rise? Suggest feasible solutions to end such crimes. (200 Words)46

2Q. The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, (PWDA) completed two decades of existence this month. However, the majority of disabled people is yet to avail the entitlements envisaged under the law. Discuss the provisions of PWDA, reasons why its implementation is lopsided and efforts needed by government to implement this act in letter and spirit. (200 Words)....47

3Q. Critically discuss why implementation of Schedule Tribe and other Forest Dwellers, Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006 and the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, are said to be crucial to address many social and economic problems faced by vulnerable sections in India. (200 Words) 48

4Q. Critically discuss why it is argued reservations are necessary for SC, ST and Other backward communities. (200 Words) 48

5Q. Do you think the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and Rules are unfair to the victims of crime at the hands of juveniles? Critically comment. (200 Words)49

6Q. Critically comment on the important provisions of the new Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2015. (200 Words).....50

7Q. “The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2015 ignores the reality of juvenile crime and disempowers the most vulnerable section of our society.” Critically comment. (200 Words) 51

8Q. Critically discuss the need for prison reforms across India. (200 Words) 51

Topic: River disputes; Quasi judicial bodies, regulatory bodies52

1Q. Write a critical note on Krishna River water dispute and critically evaluate the successes of tribunals in resolving river water disputes in India. (200 Words)52

2Q. Examine why the Mullaperiyar dam issue has become bone of contention between Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Examine if the union government can help resolve this issue. (200 Words)53

3q. “The first 15 years of this century in India will be known as the period that witnessed the advent of sectoral regulators. ” Discuss. (200 Words)54

Topic: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes;54

1q. Critically analyse the implications of right to free and compulsory education act (RTE) on private schools and beneficiary children. (200 Words).....54

2Q. The Centre is contemplating bringing in a viable insurance scheme for farmers given that the agriculture sector is facing a lot of challenges due to recurrent droughts, floods and other weather-related changes. In this regard, critically comment on performance of existing agricultural insurance schemes. (200 Words)55

3Q. “Apart from its aversion to understanding and confronting discrimination, the *Rajbala vs State of Haryana*, judgment suggests an underlying current of distrust towards democracy itself.” Critically analyse. (200 Words)56

Topic: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation..... 57

1q. Analyse the implications of National Green Tribunal’s decision to bar the registration of new and old diesel vehicles in Delhi on consumers, car manufacturers and environment. (200 Words)..... 57

2Q. India has one of the lowest diffusion rates for broadband among the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa grouping, or BRICS. India has also been very slow in terms of the diffusion of mobile phone services. Examine recent trends and policy challenges that exist in increasing diffusion rate. (200 Words)..... 57

3Q. “After the microfinance controversy, leading to a stringent law against recovery, this call money racket highlights Andhra’s broken lending system.” Critically comment on the ‘call money’ racket and its impact on borrowers. (200 Words)58

4Q. Critics argue that there are many different ways by which internet can be made available to vast majority of unconnected people in developing countries rather than opting for Facebook’s Free Basics offer. Discuss. (200 Words).....59

Topic: Salient features of Indian constitution, Fundamental rights59

1Q. Do you think Sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code should be repealed? Justify. (200 Words)59

2Q. It is said that Secularism is implicit in the entire constitutional framework and there was no need of inserting the word ‘secular’ in the preamble. Critically comment. (200 Words) 60

3Q. Do you think the Agamas, practised in South Indian temples, violate Articles 14 and 15 and 17? Critically examine. (200 Words)..... 61

Topic: Salient features of the Representation of People’s Act..... 61

1Q> “Money power is the only unsolved problem in Indian elections, the root cause of all corruption.” Elaborate. Also suggest how money power can be curbed during elections. (200 Words) Unprecedented growth in campaign expenditure complicates the formidable task of the Election Commission (EC) to curb the role of ‘money power’ during elections. 61

Topic: Parliament and State Legislatures – structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.....62

1Q. What is the rationale behind nominating members to Rajya Sabha? Do you think this provision should be repealed from the Constitution? Justify. (200 Words)62

2Q. “The Upper House is a creation of imperialism and independent India did not need it.” Critically comment. (200 Words).....63

3Q. “Urgent steps are needed to restore Parliament’s role as a deliberative body rather than as one prone to disruptions.” What these urgent steps could be and how they can be implemented? Critically comment. (200 Words)63

General Studies – 2

Topic: *Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Education, Human Resources.*

1Q. In your opinion, why is coaching industry thriving in India? Should it be regulated by a watchdog? Critically comment. (200 Words)

Coaching is an informal and alternate learning support system in addition to regular formal studies, to further enriching the students with knowledge and enhance their competence.

THE INDUSTRY IS THRIVING

Because of the following reasons.

1. Lack of availability, accessibility and quality of government established formal institutions.
2. Cut through competition due to High population less opportunities of employment.
3. Feeling of insecurity in the minds of students guardians
4. Increased income level and educational expenditure as top priority of guardians.
5. Performance of some coaching institutions.

IT SHOULD BE REGULATED

In order to

1. Provide a level playing field to underprivileged ones.
2. Rationalise the exorbitant fees against super luxury infrastructure.
3. To promote natural innovative cognizance instead fabricated intelligence and borrowed wisdom in merit system.

ASSOCHAM has estimated the coaching industry of India is a market of almost two and half lakh crore rupees. It provides employment to lacks of people(directly and indirectly),millions of revenue to state, bridges the gap of infrastructural bottlenecks in education industry upto certain extent. So to positively utilize it it needs to be regulated by an agency which can address the problems of unprivileged ones like providing reservation to economically weaker section in private coachings

2Q. It is said that here is a global auction for professional middle-class jobs and that middle class parents have no choice but to use their financial and cultural assets to get their children the marketable knowledge, certificates and networks that the credentials of a brand-name university provides. Do you think it is justified to pay huge amount of money as fees from junior KG to university education to get a decent job later? What are the other reasons that have caused huge rise in private school and college fees? Critically comment. (200 Words)

The advent of an income revolution brought about the rising middle class which can now spend more than they can afford, to make sure their children get the best education. Hence they are not only spending much more than what allows them too, they are ready to bribe the officials for this too. Recent times has seen a rise in private schools and college fees. Following are the reasons :

1) These institutes have a target audience who they aim to grab opportunity from and hence earn i.e education revolution now seem to be confined around flourishing owns business rather than imparting quality.

2) Insecurity among parents about the child's future which is ensured by the luring advertisements from the schools and colleges posters. Some claim best education and support, while some claim 100% placements. Since "job" is the main motto after a degree, the parents pay for it blindly.

3) The deteriorating primary education standard and hence the parents are willing to pay huge amounts to the private schools. Similarly, the less than required number of seats in government elite institutes and the children's infallibility to clear their entrance sometimes compels the parents to admit their child in private colleges. The colleges fringe benefit from this.

These institutes cannot wholly be blamed as they have a whole range of expenditures right from giving high salaries to the VC's, faculties nad to make sure their infrastructure and lab facilities are the best for quality education.

While most parents are helpless and sometimes daunted by the want for the child's better future, payment of huge amount of fees for KG and college isn't wholly justified. There is a need to check the transparency of these institutes who have been a major source of corruption. An IAS, IPS officer or government employees admitting their child in government schools would not only make sure the quality of education is good, it will further wave a wind which would be followed by others. This would also compel these education jugglers who seem to be lobbying this issue for their advantage, have a rareview look on their unjust ways for earning.

3Q. In the five years since the potentially transformative Right to Education Act (RTE) was implemented, several studies have documented the decline and stagnation of learning levels in school . What are the causes? Should amendments be made to RTE act? Critically analyse. (200 Words)

Causes responsible for decline and stagnation of learning levels in schools are –

1. Teachers –

- (i) Fixed salary for teachers without any consideration for local conditions
- (ii) Inadequate training to teachers for CCE and no-detention policy which has bred indifference

2. 25% reservation for 'weaker and disadvantaged sections' –

- (i) No clear definition of 'weaker and disadvantage sections'
- (ii) No provision for social audit which encourages segregation

3. Involvement of parents –

- (i) Insufficient powers to School Management Committees(SMCs) to hold teachers accountable
- (ii) Seen as a burden by rural poor

4. Input oriented –

- (i) Greater focus on inputs than performance of children
- (ii) Lack of outcome-based approach has bred corruption

However, the success of the RTE Act cannot be questioned because it has helped in achieving:

1. 96% primary enrolment for 6 straight years(10th ASER Report)
2. Goal 3 of MDGs

Hence, instead of outright amendments to the Act, certain changes can be made to the Rules and Regulation which will be better suited to the requirements of learning in schools such as –

1. Focus on outcome –
 - (i) Standardized and an independent authority for evaluation
 - (ii) Schools should be rewarded for year-on-year progress
2. Private schools –
 - (i) Provision for social audit
 - (ii) Partial reimbursements
3. Greater funding -
 - (i) Encouragement of private players
 - (ii) Increased government expenditure to 6% of GDP as per Kothari Commission recommendations

Therefore, such changes in the Act's functioning will be better suited to deliver effective services without having to amend the Act which has so far been sufficiently successful in achieving near-universalization of primary education.

4Q. A recent study has proved that students taught in mother-tongue perform better in primary schools than their english medium counterparts. Do you think states should make an effort to impose and impart school education in mother-tongue and teach English only as an optional subject? Critically analyse. (200 Words)

It is not hard to grasp second language(other than mother tongue) at young ages,as children are quick learners.But research shows children learning in second language are not able to engage successfully as compared to children learning in mpther tongue. Some children do succeed,but learning in second language has negative impacts also:

1)Cultural- children fail to become linguistically competent with their families and communities and loose the ability to connect with their cultural heritage.

2)Cognitive development is hampered (specially maths skills)

Mother tongues instruction in primary education,has below advantages:

1) children more likely to enroll and succeed

2) increase in parents' participation in their kid's learning.

3) girls and rural children with less exposure to English stay in school longer.

4) Children in multilingual education tend to have better thinking skills than monolingual peers.

5) marginalised children,tribals will feel comfortable in learning.

English is certainly a barrier for the poor,rural and marginalised students. Keeping it as a secondary (and not merely optional) language is also important so as to have a common platform of communication among diverse cultures.There is a need to improve infrastructure, ensure better teacher participation and nutrition of children (Mid Day Meal is a significant step) to ensure better higher learning outcomes and

reap our demographic dividend. This would also preserve the diverse linguistic culture of ours.

Another view:

Several studies have proved that students taught in mother-tongue perform better in primary schools than their English medium counterparts. Even Mahatma Gandhi was a proponent of this idea.

But states making an effort to impose and impart school education in mother-tongue and teach English only as an optional subject has several challenges:

1. Many parents want their wards to study in English medium private schools. Making such a switch may further cause a degradation of state-sponsored schools which will be used only by poor and deprived.
2. English learning has become necessary to seek better jobs and career today and most higher education are imparted in English. It is still not clear how easy will it be for students to switch from mother tongue to English later in their course of education.
3. It will be even difficult for teachers to teach the students in mother-tongue and later in secondary education help them learn in English.

But given that most of students fail to adopt a foreign language is because of poor English teaching and this leads to poor learning outcomes, the way forward is to analyze the merits of mother-language teaching and English teaching and design a curriculum which imparts education of some subject in English and some in mother-tongue. Moreover there are far better options like improving infrastructure, teacher's training, nutritional aspect that can improve learning outcomes among children.

5Q. The gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education in India has improved to 23.6 per cent in 2014-15 from 21.5 per cent in 2012-13. Has this improvement been translated into improvement in quality of higher education? Critically examine. (200 Words)

The increase in GER in Higher education can be primarily attributed to the rapid increase in the number of colleges and expansion of the courses being offered. The improvement in quality can be judged from the following –

1. According to a World Bank Survey in 2014, firms have shown increased satisfaction with their hires compared to previous reports
2. IISc Bengaluru recently broke into the top 100 institutions of Times Higher Education Rankings
3. Colleges have increasingly focused upon improving the work-readiness of students
4. Increased collaboration with foreign universities with the release of UGC regulations in 2013

However, there are certain issues as well –

1. Increased satisfaction of firms can be attributed to oversupply of graduates since the Economic crisis which has enabled firms to pick the best

2. Esteemed technical institutes like IITs, NITs etc. are still raked poorly primarily due to low presence of foreign students, poor gender-ratio etc.
3. Numerous firms are still compelled to train new employees after recruitment
4. Collaboration with foreign universities has been limited to few premier higher institutes in India

In this scenario, the government can take certain measures like establishing an apex body for education called NCHER and creation of a National Research Foundation as recommended by Yashpal Committee to improve the research scenario and impart relevant skills to students.

6Q. Do you think Computer-based testing (CBT) should be introduced in our education system on a larger scale? Examine the merits and demerits. (200 WORDS)

As we progress into future with more access and advancement to technology, obvious attempts will be made to computerize and automate processes to minimize human effort. Computer-based testing is one such method to make a switch from pen and paper mode exam in our education sector.

It has following advantages:

1. Strict authentication and security features like CCTV and biometric at test centres enables protection against cheating and leakages.
2. Exam can be held in multiple sessions and can be rescheduled if required and ensures quick publish of results.
3. Saves a lots of paper used in conventional testing method.
4. We can leverage India's IT prowess and provide employment to many and reduce burden on school centres and their staff to conduct exams.

However, few demerits have checked its adoption on large scale by education institution:

1. Arranging for huge and expensive infrastructure requirement may not be possible for most of them.
2. Multiple exams with multiple question papers prevents institution as well as students to adopt CBT as claim of differential difficulty for different participant is always there. Normalization of scores is itself a complex process.
3. Most of the students don't get practice on CBT and making a switch to CBT is seen as a risk.
4. It is difficult to conduct subjective test where a student has to write long answers.

As of now, for objective type evaluation can be introduced on large scale for entrance exams and is already being done for exams like JEE, GATE and international exam like SAT, GMAT etc. But it will take time before the institution are capable enough to adopt CBT on large scale.

Topic: *Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health*

1Q. What do you understand by Non-Polio Acute Flaccid Paralysis (NPAFP)? It is said that India might be polio-free but it is reporting the world's largest number of NPAFP. Examine why. (200 Words)

Even though India has been declared wild polio free by WHO, but since 2012 we have been witnessing around 50000 cases of NPAFP.

The NPAFP is the virus causes paralysis which is characterised by sudden muscle weakness, and fever in one or more limbs. AFP can occur due to many reasons, one of principle reason is vaccine-linked, due to :

- a) Today children are given oral polio vaccine and it contained weaken form of polio virus for child to develop immunity. But same is excreted by the child and in areas of inadequate sanitation. This will be dangerous.
- b) By genetic mutation of weaken virus, it spreads and causing NAAFP. There link between NPAFP and OPV doses.
- c) The problem also lies in low immunization coverage of OPV and the VDPV spread in this community.

The best way to counter this is :

- a) Shift from trivalent dosage to bivalent oral dosage.
- b) Along with the oral dosage, inactive form of injectable virus is given in routine immunization.
- c) Increase in immunization coverage thru indra dhanush immunization coverage.

There is need to identify the communities vulnerable to this problem and proper policy action must be taken from state and central government.

2Q. "TB is the leading infectious killer, yet countries still follow old and dangerous [TB diagnostic and treatment] policies. Outdated tuberculosis policies are risking further spread of drug-resistant TB." Critically discuss measures taken by India to fight Tuberculosis. (200 Words)

The Government introduced Revised National TB Control Program (RNTCP) to fight TB. It involves collaboration of Public and private sector.

Measures against TB -

1. Public sector-

- a. Government introduced free TB drugs and treatment in Government clinics. The rich didn't trust Government clinics and the poor were unaware.
- b. These clinics still use Sputum Smear Microscopy which is outdated hence not detecting majority cases.
- c. Free treatment has hidden costs like the commutation charge, hospitalization, X-rays, etc plus the long queues.
- d. Frequent budget cuts have affected availability of drugs , labs, trained personnel etc.

2.

Private sector –

a. It has been the source of irrational treatment , no supervision and absence of follow up.

b. Huge treatment costs forced people to stop the treatment prematurely and developed MDR/XDR TB.

3. Government declared TB a notified disease but still private practitioners don't report cases to the Government.

4. In 2014, a pilot project in Mumbai was started to provide free TB treatment in private clinics. Under this , the private practitioner reports the disease to the Government and is paid his consultancy fee ,henceforth Government takes over the treatment. This program has been successful but has not included MDR and XDR line of TB.

5. Failure to regulate drugs caused many MDR-TB cases. There were shortages of drugs too specially for children.

6. The Government for the first time has standardized TB care by introducing Standards for TB Care for all sectors. However, in the absence of strict implementation this is likely to fail.

India has the highest TB burden in the world. Revamping of schemes without strict implementation would not be fruitful. More expenditure should be made on R&D and the poor should be given incentives like food entitlements, transport vouchers, etc on completion of their treatment to encourage them. A holistic approach needs to be undertaken to eradicate this disease.

3Q. The data from the Rapid Survey on Children conducted in 2013-14 shows some but patchy progress between 2005-06 and 2013-14 in maternal and child health indicators. Critically examine the causes of poor progress in this regard. (200 Words)

Rapid survey on children jointly conducted by UNICEF and MWCD acquires its importance based on the fact that it could be used as a comparable data not just to analyse trends but also to evaluate their causes with regard to maternal & child health indicators.some of them are-

1.Access to services-tremendous improvement in delivery care i.e.institutionalized deliveries(medical facility & health professionals) under jannani suraksha yojana but quality of care available in these institutions in not good.

2.coverage of Antenatal Care(ANC) and Postnatal Care(PNC)services is also not satisfactory hence lack of access to comprehensive services for pregnant and lactating women.

3.There is an improvement in immunization coverage but still lacks penetration.

4.minimum dietary diversity is not met.poor implementation of mid day meal showed limited results.

5.lack of proper sanitation & safe drinking water.

6.significant budgetary cuts on health and nutrition(just 1% of GDP).

7. socio-economic, cultural & traditional constraints coupled with lack of awareness & literacy.

8. lack of appropriate physical infrastructure and advanced technology.

Central govt interventions like NRHM, ICDS, PHC, JSSK show some positive development. Availability of regular monitoring data at disaggregated levels, greater investments & comprehensive approach towards addressing these concerns can contribute towards human capital development.

It's time for India to implement universal health coverage & provide better quality of care to every citizen.

4q. Define the following health indicators: stillbirth rate; perinatal mortality rate; infant mortality rate; maternal mortality rate. Examine how India's fares in these indicators compared to its neighbours. (200 Words)

Still birth rate-

It is the number of babies born dead (who died during labour and birth) per thousand births.

India has the highest number of still births in the world.

Perinatal mortality rate-

It is the total number of still births plus the deaths in the first 7 days per thousand live births during the same period.

Infant mortality rate-

It is the number of deaths of infants under 1 year old per thousand live births.

Maternal mortality rate-

It is the annual number of female deaths per 100000 live births from any cause related to or aggravated by pregnancy or its management.

The only neighbour which has a better still birth rate than India is Sri Lanka but India has the highest number of still births in the world.

India accounts for a quarter of the world maternal deaths while our neighbours Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have done quite better than us.

India's infant mortality rate is worse than its neighbouring countries like Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. The only neighbour with which we can be compared is Pakistan.

The reasons responsible for India's poor performance as compared to its smaller neighbours are-

1. India is a very big and diverse country as compared to its neighbours. Thus, the overall performance is reduced due to certain pockets not doing well.

2. The public expenditure on health as a percentage of GDP in India is far more lower as compared to its other neighbours.

3. The policies of the Government of India to address these issues have not been successful due to their poor implementation. We need to learn from our neighbours like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in this respect.

4. About half of the population in India still defecates in open and malnutrition rates in India are still one of the highest in the world.

5Q. Overall, to improve child nutrition it is vitally necessary to improve healthcare services, women's empowerment, social protection and ensure better water supply and sanitation. Elaborate. (200 Words)

Child Nutrition is a cumulative result of multiple factors whose presence ensures conducive environment for healthy growth. Moreover such dependence resembles the intricate relations of a food chain where the stability of food web decides the survival of individual species. Following aspects deserve due acknowledgement

Robust healthcare services ensure timely vaccination, access to institutional delivery, preventive and even emergency health care services. The presence of brick and mortar structure with adequate technological backup along with connectivity with district hospital fulfill the basic requirements. Extensive network of ASHA workers, special drives under INDRADHANUSH Mission and existence of village level health workers aid in fulfilling the health related cases.

Social protection on the other hand provide protective cover to vulnerable sections. Special schemes like INDIRA GANDHI MATRITVA SAHYOG YOJNA, MGNREGA, SWASTHYA BIMA YOJANA, NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY MISSION etc. aid in providing basic amenities at marginal cost and even during emergency hospitalization. Especially for reducing the issue of neo natal mortality, social protection measures play crucial role.

Also, Better water supply and sanitation ensures sound cognitive development of child, ensures healthy biological functioning and sound environment for healthy growth.

However, even after presence of above stated factors, Child nutrition is still marred by existence of social distinctions like patriarchy etc. Women empowerment allows women in key decision making roles like financial allocation, child health and education etc.

Thus healthy child nutrition provides strong foundation for growth of child. Provision of same demands comprehensive revamp of health institutional architecture and concomitantly bring reforms in society for improving literacy and empowering women at large.

6Q> The World Health Organization (WHO) in its first global estimates of preventable food-borne diseases has reported that 600 million people (one in 10) fall ill and 420,000 die every year from contaminated food. Write a critical note on these food-borne diseases, their impact in India and measures taken by Indian government to prevent and treat these diseases. (200 Words)

Food borne diseases are illness acquired through consumption of contaminated food and water. It is because of several reasons such as

- 1) presence of germs in abattoir equipments and butchers' hands.
- 2) toxic compounds such as lectins are naturally present in some vegetables such as potatoes.
- 3) Rampant use of pesticides in India.
- 4) Improper storage of grains which are stored in the open. In the Mid-Day Meal

incident in Saran district, the food was kept in containers laced with poisonous monocrotophoses.

5) lack of sanitation, clean drinking water and handwashing practice.

6) Improper monitoring, Inadequate staff and equipments in labs as illustrated by the Maggi controversy.

Impact in India

1) Diarrhoea (responsible for most number of under-five deaths) and food poisoning is rampant in India.

2) Productivity of the individual is affected. On a large scale, this would prevent India from exploiting its demographic dividend.

3) Medical expenses have pushed many people below poverty line.

4) Sometimes, they cause blood poisoning which weakens the immune system

Measures taken by the government.

1) Constitution of an independent authority, FSSAI.

2) Initiation of Integrated Disease Surveillance Project to improve reporting.

3) collaboration with US's Centre for Disease Control and Prevention for capacity building for increased reporting.

4) Enactment of policies such as Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labeling) Regulations, 2011

The government still needs to increase the number of labs, capacity building of lab personnel, ensure enforcement of these orders and policies and undertake periodical surveys. Awareness campaign on handwashing and consumer rights would help. Implementation of Shanta Kumar's recommendations on food storage would be helpful

7Q. What are the criticisms made against universal health insurance subsidy schemes? Are they valid? Critically examine. (200 Words)

The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system based on the JAM trinity has proved successful for subsidies for schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojna, LPG Gas Cylinders' Pahal, etc. However, there is an inherent difference between the DBT system in such schemes and the DBT system as proposed in the Universal Health Insurance subsidies. In the former, the subsidies are transferred directly to the beneficiary for having spent so much amount over and above what would have been the subsidized price. But in the Universal Health Insurance subsidies, the beneficiaries will have to transfer such received amount to those who offer medical services to them. This makes the Hospitals a proxy beneficiary while the individual seeking medical help is only utilizing the services by paying what he obtains from DBT. It may cause problems due to the following reasons:

- The out of pocket expenses will end up being the same as a 'universal' scheme of subsidies puts everyone on the same foot. Hence, the hospitals will be assured of the DBT amount and will expect the same additional expenses from the patients as before.

- The DBT does not tackle the primary problem, that is, access to medical care. In rural areas, private hospitals have no presence, and the public hospitals have mediocre health facilities.

- The private hospitals may tend to increase the treatment by various complications due to the lure of money. A similar situation like the hysterectomies surgeries in Andhra Pradesh may arise.

8Q. The Union government has decided to amend the law in order to guarantee women working in the private sector 26 weeks' maternity leave, up from the 12 weeks they are now entitled to. Discuss the merits of this amendment and also examine if India should also consider amending the act to provide similar leave to fathers. (200 Words)

The Union government's recent decision to amend the law to increase the maternity leave to 26 weeks is a commendable step and has various merits for the women and also society at large. They are.

- 1) Six months of breast feeding since birth is recommended to gain complete immunity and nutrition. This amendment would enable women to breast feed their child for a longer duration.
- 2) Reduce child illness occurring mainly due to lack of proper care in the initial stages
- 3) Nurturing by women could no way be equated to any form. Elongated mother care would also enhance child's mental ability.
- 4) Creates stress free mind for women, in turn increases the performance in both professional and personal activities
- 5) Also helps women to build up their carrier and help in achieving desired positions.
- 6) Longer maternity leave will also help employers to retain expertises
- 7) It also increases loyalty and commitment of employee towards the organizations.
- 8) At last, it also strengthens the relationship between mother and the child.

In a contemporary society, where both men and women are engaged in occupational activities, providing similar kind of provisions to father would indeed build up family relationship. Many countries such as Japan, Korea, Norway, Sweden and many European countries are providing similar provisions. Certain studies also have shown that fostering child by father at the initial stages would strengthen their bond. And, this could also eliminate disagreements between parents with regard to child care. Hence results in stable family structure.

Topic: Issues relating to poverty and hunger.

1Q. What are the root causes of farm distress in India? Why do you think state interventions have failed to halt farmer suicides in parts of Maharashtra and Karnataka? Critically analyse. (200 Words)

Despite various Govt policies farmer suicides are still increasing alarmingly. Main reasons for farmers' distress are:

- 1) Farm Size: Impact on economy. Farm population per hectare has increased and per capita income has declined.

Solution lies in ensuring higher productivity per hectare of crop area.

- 2) Rampant Urbanization : Decline in farm land due to diversion of land to non-agricultural use.

Farm mechanization is difficult without pooling of land for joint use of machinery. Balance has to be struck to ensure primary character of crucial agriculture is not disturbed.

3) High Input Costs: Crops failures burden the farmers hugely. Subsidized fertilizers, seeds etc should be targeted and rationalised. Direct Benefit Transfer would be helpful in this case.

4) Rain-fed agriculture: Bad monsoon adversely impacts the produce. Despite various policy measures like "Zero Suicide District" Osamanabad, Reason why state intervention has failed to stop farmer suicides in Maharashtra and Karnataka:

1) Discrepancy in the data recorded by State Govt and center creates lacunae at Govt level to tackle the issue.

2) Lack of skills to opt for alternative employment when farming seems non-profitable.

3) Insufficient Minimum support price and rising debts.

Proper counselling of farmers giving them emotional support in time of crisis , motivating them to opt for minimum water usage crops , increasing the number of crops under MSP, shift to sustainable agricultural practices and implementation of Crop insurance schemes can help in tackling famers' crisis in our Country.

[Agroforestry, animal rearing, pisciculture, rainwater harvesting, drought management NEERANCHAL, SMS based weather forecast and best agricultural practices, common market and contract farming, satellite based assessment of crop damage due to disasters, compensation linked to headline inflation, crop insurance delinked from credit history, micro irrigation, soil quality and linked fertilizer usage pattern, access to credit are some steps]

Topic: *Devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein; Performance of schemes*

1Q. Should the next Union budget further reduce the number of centrally sponsored schemes? Discuss. (200 Words)

With the recommendation of Fourteenth Finance Commission to devolve 42% of the taxes to the states up from 32 %, the centre has delinked itself from 17 Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). Currently the centre finances 50 CSS. Some of the reasons why the centre should further reduce the number of CSS are:

- i) To provide greater accountability to the states and greater decentralization.
- ii) Some states may not require finances in certain sector and can devolve or divert that money to some other schemes. Eg:- Kerala has got very good literacy rate and very good ranking in some of the indicators and hence don't require sponsoring in those areas but may require more finances in some other areas like improving business environment, where they are rated low. Thus one size fits for all does not work always, rather tailored fitting works.
- iii) Moreover, when centre sponsors only a few schemes, it can devolve greater finances to those schemes and also give more time to ensure better compliance.
- iv) Moreover a scheme with a top down approach may not be implemented by states with greater zeal unlike when allowed on their own to decide where to spend.

Hence, in line with NITI Aayog recommendation, the union budget next year can reduce the CSS to 30 down from 50 this year.

2Q. Critically comment on The Supreme Court's endorsement of the Haryana government's decision to prescribe educational qualifications for candidates contesting panchayat polls. (200 Words)

SC has endorsed Haryana govt order to prescribe educational qualifications for candidates contesting panchayat election. The order has a mixed of both positives & negative ramifications.

1) POSITIVE:

=>It would increase the focus among the masses, and also the person elected with more intellectual abilities should take right decisions. Moreover, it may decrease the effect of strong locals who contest election only for their personal gain & are not under the given criteria.

=>Seeing their huge executive function, it looks necessary.

2) NEGATIVE:

But these positives looks inefficient with some huge problem

A) Education whose responsibility?

=>People in haryana or in India are not uneducated with their own will, instead it is a fault of govt by not providing it under their DPSP responsibility. People suffer from illiteracy because of unsuitable economic condition, less school availability, social reasons etc. Even after right to education coming in the background, we have not received any satisfactory progress.

B) Anti weaker section:

=>Since SC, ST, women & people from other backward caste suffer most so at first sight it looks that SC order is against the vulnerable section.

C) Decision making:

=>People from educationally backward arena are generally those who are socially & economically exploited, Such people failing to contest election would result in loss of voice from vulnerable section & a dominance of higher strata & hence decision making may include neglect towards them.

Overall, educational qualification is a good step but with present situation it looks that India is not ready for it yet especially at village level where there is still huge neglect towards study. Instead what we need is to include following things in the election process:

=>General background of candidate, criminal record, property etc

=>Action taken in past towards village development.

=>Behavior towards vulnerable section.

=>Belief in secularism, integrity, general awareness about thing.

Its not necessary that all this comes with right education, instead it is upbringing of a person. So, till the time india reaches a certain good ratio in education more focus on these things is necessary.

Topic: *Important aspects of governance; Role of civil services in democracy*

1Q. India has one of the lowest ratios of government employees to population in the world. Do you think India should increase jobs both qualitatively and quantitatively, and also their pay, to improve efficiency in administration? Critically examine. (200 Words)

India has just 1622 government servants for a population of 1 lakh in a stark contrast to USA which stands at 7681(including centre and states). A World Bank study in the late 1990s found that less than 1.5 per cent of India's population was employed in government, which was behind countries such as Malaysia and Sri Lanka (4.5 per cent) and China (around 3 per cent). These facts bust the common myth that Indian bureaucracy is bloated.

Reforms needed:

1. 2nd ARC discovered "skewed" pattern of staffing with shortage at field level and overstaffing at the head quarters.
2. Sharp divides between various grades of civil service and vertical mobility from lower to higher either is restricted or completely debarred. 6th pay commission recommended abolition of Group D services and absorb them in Group C.
3. Mainstreaming lateral entry is the only way to break the back of cadre based civil service.
4. Yearly targets and evaluations against these achievements of these targets. Performance linked incentives.
5. Domainization: After 10-20 years of service, civil servants should pick a domain and confine their career to that domain.
6. Focus on soft-training. Mid career training linked to career advancement should be properly institutionalized.
7. There cannot be equitable pay between public sector employees and private sector because:
 - few parallels of public positions exist in private sector(Ex- DM, SP)
 - Fringe benefits are not monetized in public sector.
 - An element of job security exists in public services which is conspicuous by its absence in private sector.
 - Tax-payer's interest cannot be jeopardized.
 - Civil servants(except few departments like Revenue) do not earn money for the government unlike private employees.

While following the dictum of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance", the government should ensure that it has enough personnel to improve governance and to ensure universal access to services like Health and Education. Abolition of interviews for lower level functionaries is a step in right direction.

2Q> “The Achilles heel of the Indian Police is the inadequately staffed, under-equipped, and soulless police station, something that has brought ignominy to the whole force.” In your opinion, what needs to be done to change this image of police in India? Critically discuss. (200 Words)

The present Indian Police system has deep roots in colonial era and over a period of time, it has been beset by a number of problems like

Inadequately staffed -Low police personnel to population ratio of 1.3 per 1000

Solutions:

- 1) Increase the recruitment of police personnel to achieve UN recommended ratio of 2.2 police personnel per 1000 population
- 2) Improving the infrastructure in police academies to handle the increased recruitment

Under-equipped-Lack of infrastructure, backwardness of policing in terms of arms and ammunition as well as technology

Solutions:

- 1) Provide necessary budgetary allocation for police modernization-
 - a) Smart and intelligent systems-crime sharing apps, Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System and Integrated Information Management
 - b) Coordinating with foreign countries in order to give different experience and adopting best practices being followed

Soulless-Insensitive attitude of police and reluctance among citizens to approach police; and Illegal arrest, detention, torture and extra judicial killings in police custody

Solutions:

- 1) Developing sensitization program for police personnel so that they can deal with citizens in a better manner
- 2) Setting up a Police Establishment Board in order to review the functioning of police
- 3) Establishing a Police Complaints Authority in order to look into complaints made by citizens against police
- 4) Increasing their salaries and perks to allow them to work honestly without looking for illegal gains from citizens
- 5) Making citizens aware about online registration of FIRs so that avenues of harassment can be reduced
- 6) Installing CCTV cameras in police station to keep a watch on activities of police
- 7) Setting up an authority to look into concerns of police and their suggestions
- 8) Random checks by Human Rights Commission to look into the functioning of police departments

Topic: Salient features of Constitution

1Q. Articles 17, 23, 24 of our Constitution are said to be great gifts of Babasaheb Ambedkar and it is said that implementing these articles in their true spirit will be a great gift to him on his 125th birthday celebrations. Critically discuss. (200 Words)

During his last speech in the constituent assembly, Dr. Ambedkar warned about the future of the country. " We must be determined to defend our independence till the last drop of our blood". Although independence was defended, but was also snatched from some :

- 1) Article 17 calls for the abolishment of Untouchability, holding its manifestations from the later vedic times. Although this has seen a remarkable decrease of instances, specially in cities, specially after the implementation of Prevention of Atrocities (1989) but unfortunately, that which became a provision of the elephantine Constitution is still now followed and still practiced in backward states and rural areas.
- 2) Article 23 called for the Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labor. Although the registered complaints for the human beings trafficked has considerably declined, the unregistered ones are still many. The North-Eastern states are vulnerable with human trafficking along the porous borders. Forced labor is not only repressive, but also demotivating owing to the lack of deserved wages being given.
- 3) Article 24 calls for the prohibition of employment of children in factories. The right to education has allowed the children to have basic education till 14 years of age which has been outstanding with parity in primary enrollments. But industries like the fire crackers in Shivakasi is an example of how this has been unheard and unfulfilled. Still millions of children due to obligations and responsibilities have to work to support their family, and give up their childhood dreams.

While what Dr. Ambedkar had feared of back then, is unfortunately coming true. The need for a proper implementation is mandatory, however change would come after we change ourselves. The look an upper caste has over the sight of a lower caste is egregious. A change within can bring a change in the society.

Topic: India and its neighborhood- relations

1Q. Comment on the challenges that the new government in Myanmar would face as a democratically elected government. Examine if India can help Myanmar in this regard. (200 Words)

Challenges to the new government to Myanmar –

1. On leadership –
 - (i) The military-drafted Constitution prevents Aung San Suu Kyi from assuming leadership role threatening a power struggle
 - (ii) 1/4th of the seats in both Houses will be reserved for the military which threatens democratic decision-making

2. Economic –

- (i) Diversification of industry and utilization of its large youthful population
- (ii) Preventing excessive foreign involvement in its newly discovered resources

3. Social –

- (i) Speedy implementation of land reforms to increase agricultural productivity
- (ii) Reconciliation between the various ethnic and religious communities especially the atrocities against Muslims

4. Institutional –

- (i) Strengthening the judicial system and establishing rule of law
- (ii) Gradual reduction of the military's influence over State resources

India can help Myanmar in the following ways –

1. Resource extraction – Assistance from Indian PSUs like OVL which have experience in working overseas in petroleum extraction
2. Utilization of demographic dividend – Indian schemes like 'Skill India', 'Start up Stand Up' etc can serve as a model for Myanmar
3. Social – India can share its experience in addressing religious intolerance and ethnic conflicts
4. Economic – Extension of lines-of-credit and joint collaboration on projects like BCIM, Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemo road and Kaladan Project
5. Security – Collaboration on addressing various security threats like the presence of rebels in NW Myanmar, illegal opium trade from the 'Golden Triangle' etc

The advent of democracy in Myanmar augurs well for India which has been plagued by neighbours with unstable or autocratic regimes. Hence, supporting Myanmar's democratic institutions is in line with India's aim of being recognized as a responsible regional power.

2Q. Do you think India has failed in its Nepal policy by allowing it to become more assertive and giving China a strategic upper hand in Nepal? Critically comment. (200 Words)

India Nepal relations are intimate, multi faceted, and unique in character and scope. Links of Historical, political, religious, geographical and socio-cultural nature and constant flow of population across border conspire to create a great attachment but also resentment at times.

India Nepal relationship dates back to 1950 and signing of Treaty of Peace and friendship between two countries. India also shares 1751 km of open border and national treatment accorded to each other citizens.

However, despite this great advantage, India unable to forge a stable relationship with Nepal. This can be mainly attributed to political instability in the Nepal from the past. Opposition parties in Nepal seek India's help to come to power and once they come to power, they play anti-India card to Consolidate their power.

Recent alleged unofficial blockade by India, which disrupted fuels and essentials goods in Nepal created a bad impression on India by Nepali Citizens. Sensing the mood of people, China was quick to supply uninterrupted essential goods to Nepal. China also signed an Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal for supply of

petroleum products ending India's monopoly.

Our open border with Nepal is always a cause of concern as it would act as gateway to China and Pakistan having security implications for India.

We must understand India-Nepal relations are multi-dimensional and Nepal-China relations are relatively small. India should analyse pros and cons of its actions and create a long term strategy to deal effectively with Nepal.

Topic: *Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests*

1Q. Briefly examine the history of ASEAN, India's engagement with it and reasons why India's economic and strategic relations with southeast Asia continues to be weak. (200 Words)

The history of ASEAN can be seen under the following heads –

1. Foundation Phase – ASEAN was created with the Bangkok Declaration(1967) by five countries, and its primary objectives were to address regional instability, spread of communism and promote economic growth
2. Expansion phase – The ASEAN members started exercising greater political cooperation(e.g. against Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia) and economic cooperation(e.g. signing of the ASEAN Free Trade Area)
3. Consolidation Phase – The ASEAN signed a Charter in 2008 to achieve economic integration similar to EU and is currently an economic powerhouse with a GDP of \$2.5 trillion

India's engagement with ASEAN–

1. Relations between the two were subdued during the Cold-war era due to India's socialist leanings
2. Post-1992, relation improved due to India's Look East Policy and it was accorded full dialogue partner status in 1995
3. India signed an FTA in 2012 to boost bilateral trade
4. Joint setting up of the India-ASEAN Green fund to develop green technologies for climate change mitigation

However, certain factors have prevented India-ASEAN from reaching their full potential –

1. Anti-democratic forces in countries like Myanmar and Thailand
2. This region houses the 'Golden Triangle' which is a hub of illegal opium trade
3. Poor development of NE India, which has impeded Look East policy
4. First-mover advantage to China which has already invested heavily

2q. With the lifting of Western sanctions, hydrocarbon-rich Iran is positive on finalising an agreement with India for setting up a \$4.5-billion undersea gas pipeline. Examine how this deal would benefit both countries. (200 Words)

With the lifting of Western Sanctions on Iran, a SAGE (South Asia Gas Enterprise) project is going to be finalised between India and Iran.

This project is going to benefit both the countries in the following manner.

Benefits to India

>> Development projects : With many ongoing development projects like Make in India, Digital India, India needs huge power, SAGE project promises a big boost to these projects

>> Food security : natural gases promises a boost to the fertilizer industries and power projects which will help India in its food security.

>> Strategic Interests : It will decrease dependence on stalled projects like TAPI and IPI which passes through Pakistan.

>> Nuclear projects : India can enter into discussions with Iran to import uranium for non military purposes.

>> Other projects : Other projects like North South Transport Corridor project will get boost which will enable India to reach to European countries.

>> Diplomatic relations : It will give boost to diplomatic relations between the two countries.

both countries will trade in their own currencies, no burden on forex reserve.

Benefits to Iran :

>> Iran will get a good market for its hydrocarbon resources.

>> Iran-India relationship will improve which will help Iran in infrastructure projects like Zaranj-Delaram Highway, chabahar port.

3Q. It is said that Japan plays a central role in India's current 'Act East' policy. Examine why. (200 Words)

India's 'Look East' policy has been rechristened as 'Act East' with a further focus on deepening economic, institutional and defence ties with Asia-Pacific region.

Japan is Asia's second largest economy and plays a pivotal role in the Act East policy(AEP) . This important role can be studied under the following heads-

1. Defence-

a. Common aim- India's AEP and Japan's foreign policy aim to counter China's excessive clout in the region.

b. All the eastern nations are also share territorial disputes with China. Japan's collaboration with India would bring all nations together against a common enemy. This would facilitate defence contacts between the three entities.

2. Strategic-

a. Japan is a member of ASEAN PLUS 3 and could easily lobby for India's inclusion.

b. Both nations back each other's UNSC claim which would eventually give them a greater say in the region.

3. Economic-

a. As Japan undergoes economic slowdown , India could be a lucrative market for investment and goods. Success of Japan would encourage other East Asian nations to invest in India.

4. Technology –

- a. Japan's initiatives to help India with technology (ex bullet trains) , infrastructure , Smart Cities would propel growth of both nations.
- b. Plus this would streamline India's Northeast which is the gateway to/for East Asia.

5. Cultural –

- a. Buddhism has bonded India with Japan and has the prospects of influencing East Asia too. Decision to build heritage city like Varanasi on lines of Kyoto would increase tourism across nations.

6. Energy-

- a. All East Asian nations are island nations and under a high risk of climate change. India's thrust for renewable energy and Japan's funding India on Solar Projects shows India's concern for these vulnerable nations and would help strengthening ties further.

Japan is a power to reckon with in Asia and shares good ties with all nations in the East plus including US. To gain a greater strategic role globally India should leverage upon its relation with Japan as this would be very helpful in accomplishment of the 'Act East' policy.

4Q. Discuss the issues affecting implementation of TAPI pipeline project and, if implemented, its benefits for India. (200 Words)

Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India(TAPI) is an ambitious proposed natural gas pipeline developed by the ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK(ADB), has its backing from US who seeks to penetrate central asia through this project. But there are concerns making it contentious :

- 1) Security concerns : Insurgency like conditions in Afghanistan and Pakistan (Taliban and Let) involves risk of destroying the pipelines and hence private players don't want to take risk. However, the solution can be a helicopter mounted-team which can repair the wrecking which may be caused within some time. Hence, although a serious concern, it can be managed.
- 2)Pricing issue : 7 out of the 23 meeting till now have been towards simplifying the pricing issue, royalty sharing, but still the picture is not clear. This may lead to future disputes.
- 3)Political settlements between India and Pakistan, plus the Taliban holding political share in a part of Afghanistan is a matter of concern. Balochistan is a concern too. However if Taliban becomes a shareholder, it may mean these turmoils can be down-held and hence pave the way to economic and political development.

However, if a success, this can help India in the following ways :

- 1) A share of about 15-25% of natural gas would mean large investments in manufacturing sector in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab regions, hence growth of economy.
- 2) This mutual consent would mean better economic relations with the till now bad relations with Pakistan.
- 3) Better manufacturing sector would mean better employment opportunities for the people, better livelihood, better HDI.

The IPI pipeline plan was delayed due to the dis-interest of Pakistan at that time. However, efforts should be made so as to bring stability in these insurgent areas which can be done only if the further steps are taken to strengthen this pipeline, which would mean better relations, both economic and political.

5Q. Write a critical note on Japan's contribution to development of India's infrastructure and its impact on India – China relationship. (200 Words)

In recent years Japan has invested immensely in India's infrastructure development. In fact India is the largest recipient of Japanese ODA (Overseas development assistance). Some of the examples are :-

- 1- Delhi metro project and recently announced bullet train project connecting Mumbai and Ahmedabad.
- 2- Mumbai-Delhi Freight Corridor and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor
- 3- Development of roads in North-eastern part of India and Power transmission lines in Orissa.

Japan has invested in heavy industries like toshiba turbine manufacturing in chennai, development of Tata Mundra supercritical power plant. Further clean Yamuna project is another significant contribution

huge capital of Japan, aging population, sluggish growth perfectly complement with India's youth demography, domestic market demand etc.

japan industrial townships can be added.

japan-investor cell for ease in business will smoothen infra projects

Japan is collabrating with A.P for the development of new capital Amravati.

The only issue with Japan's investment in infrastructure is it comes with a condition that india has to procure Japanese equipments which are much costlier than Chinese counterpart and most of the construction work will take place in japan. No not much job creation for Indians.

Japan's assistance in India is based on three principles- Promotion of economic growth, Improvement of the poverty and environmental issue and Expansion of Human resources development. A lot has been done to promote economic growth but other two aspects still have a huge area of improvement.

Another area of concern is relation with China. There are arguments that increasing warmth between India and Japan may disturb China and it may retaliate by withdrawing or reducing her proposed investments. But one must have to understand that China is a mature country and any mature country would not go for such tactics. India also offers a huge market to Chinese products so China can't afford to risk that. Recent development in India-China relationships seems very promising and these issues barely can have any long term unwanted impacts.

There is enough space in world economy to mutually survive and grow and as far as India is concern it must take advantage of competition in world market and fulfill her interests.

6Q. Some critics are opposed to the prospect of an India-Japan nuclear deal. Examine why and comment if their arguments have any merit. (200 Words)

Japan was quick to levy sanctions on India in the aftermath of Pokhran and now wants to sell nuclear reactors even as an anti-nuclear lobby continues to grow in its own backyard harping on post-Fukushima resolve to move away from nuclear energy. No wonder critics smell something fishy.

⇒□ India desperately needs cheaper reactors now that it has also made the deal to acquire uranium from Australia and is intent on moving away from coal-based electricity but the timing of this nuclear deal is suspicious. Critics may even wonder if a cheap loan and bullet trains oblige India to purchase sub-optimal reactors to boost the Japanese economy.

⇒□ Safety is a major issue post-Fukushima and Japanese reactors are decidedly not the safest. European reactors come with a default core-catching mechanism in the event of a meltdown which itself is worth the higher price.

⇒□ Liability is another issue that has raised eyebrows. If India is dead-set to get supplier liability fixed from the US, there are no reasons to make an exception for Japan. Moreover, in the event of a mishap and change of govt in Japan, a strong liability clause that protects Indian interests is not yet part of the deal.

⇒□ Presumed benefits include, getting help from other countries once Japan is under our belt again, this is rather wishful thinking. To assume that we will get easier access to NSG, Wassenaar etc also seems a bit far fetched.

⇒□ Overall this deal is weak. India should focus on Molten salt liquid breeder reactors for thorium and purchase them from the United States and push for the liability issues to be handled.

7Q. “The 10th ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at Nairobi essentially failed to strike a much-needed balance between the interests of developing and developed countries in international trade.” Discuss. (200 Words)

The 10th ministerial conference tried to make the Doha Development Agenda a reality but didn't make much progress. Deadlock between developed world and developing countries continued as both failed to settle down their differences and come up with something that could have been acceptable to both. Following are the issues of contentions:

1) Developed countries wanted India to respect the Agreement on Agriculture which mandated that subsidies can't exceed 10% of the agricultural prices of 1986-88. India wanted to breach this limit in order to implement NFSA as part of social security.

Further, Developing countries contest that in absolute terms, the subsidies provided by developed world exceed the amount which is currently provided by the developing countries. Such huge subsidies tend to take away the markets of developing countries.

2) The issue of Special Safeguard Mechanism didn't receive a permanent solution.

SSM is a mechanism to import duties in order to reduce the huge inflows from developed world in case it has a distorting effect on their market. But developed world allowed the developing countries to use this instrument selectively and finally

decision would be taken in the next meeting

3) Developed countries wanted to include new agenda in the existing one relating to labor and environment reforms. Developing countries are against the inclusion of these issues without settling the issue of agriculture. Further, developing countries contest that such new agendas would benefit the developed world while placing them at loss

4) Developed world wanted to impose a deadline for bringing Trade Facilitation Agreement but developing countries opposed the same because they won't be able to introduce reforms in such a short period of time

In wake of this, it can be said that both the developed and developing countries have something to cheer upon. India (a developing country) can continue with the 'peace clause' for extending subsidies that breach the limit. Further, they were able to stall the motives of developed world and got the right to subscribe to SSM selectively.

On the other hand, developed world has come up with new trade blocs like TPP (Trade Pacific Partnership), so they won't be affected much from the outcomes.

8Q> “From India’s point of view, the Nairobi declaration of WTO talks was disappointing on multiple fronts.” Critically examine. (200 Words)

India's disappointment regarding the Nairobi declaration of WTO can be seen due to the following –

1. Agricultural subsidies – India's demand for restructuring of agricultural subsidies based on 1986-88 prices was not achieved and India would have to remove export subsidies completely by 2023
2. Public stockholding – Resolution of the issue has been pushed to 2017 which means that Indian subsidies are still considered as 'trade-distorting' but allowed under the Peace clause
3. Agricultural Safeguards – No concrete framework for Special Safeguard Mechanism(SSM) for developing countries vis-à-vis Special (Agricultural) Safeguards(SSGs) under Art 5 of AoA
4. Other Doha Development Agenda issues – No resolution on the issue of IPR rights regarding usage of generic medicines and Special and Differential Treatment accorded by developed countries to cotton, micro-industries etc.

However, there have been some positive outcomes as well –

1. Export subsidies – Developed countries have committed to remove export subsidies completely
2. Information Technology Agreement – This agreement would accord huge market access to Indian firms and promote competitiveness
3. Accession of Afghanistan – Impetus to trade with Afghanistan improving its domestic economy which will have a direct bearing on security threats emanating from there

Hence, we see that the resolutions are mixed. Looking for a permanent resolution of the outstanding issues in the 11th Conference as per the DDA guidelines is the way forward for India.

9Q. Write a critical note on India – Russia joint defence cooperation initiatives. (200 Words)

India and Russia have enjoyed a cooperative partnership from the days of Cold War.

The two countries have cooperated in defense sector on the following fronts:

- 1) Defense equipment: Russia has supplied India with different aircrafts (Ilyushin, Mikoyan), missiles (Kornet, Shturm), tanks (BTR-50, PRP-3), submarines and aircraft carriers (INS Vikramaditya)
- 2) Joint programmes: Russia and India have worked together on different military programmes like BrahMos and Sukhoi
- 3) Military exercises: Both countries perform military exercises like INDRA (navies) and Avia-INDRA (air forces)

Besides this, Russia while offering the equipments has always offered a better deal to India.

However, in recent times, the relation has been strained a little because:

- 1) Delays in production: The signed defense agreements have a long time to fructify because of delays e.g. in case of Admiral Gorshokov (Vikramaditya) and Talwar class guided missile frigates
- 2) Maintenance issues: India has complaints about shoddy maintenance and poor availability of spare parts
- 3) Quality issues: It is being argued that India is being offered such equipments which are not required by Russia e.g. Ka-226 helicopters
- 4) Sidelining by India: India has been diversifying the defense imports from countries like US and Israel. In 2012, India extended the defense contracts to France for Dassault Rafale instead of Russia
- 5) Russia's closeness with Pakistan: Russia has been moving close with Pakistan and has signed a defense cooperation agreement

The recent visit of Indian PM to Russia to make agreements on Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft, submarines, missiles and frigates is expected to smooth away the problems and give a boost to defense relations.

10Q. It was said that the three pacts between India and USA – the Logistics Support Agreement (LSA), the Communication and Information Security Memorandum Agreement (CISMOA) and the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) would ensure that interoperability between the Indian and US militaries was smooth. However, many objections have been raised against these pacts in India. Do you think these objections are valid? Critically examine. (200 Words)

Logistics Support Agreement- LSA would require both countries to provide their fuels, bases and other kind of logistics support to each other fighter jets and naval warships through cashless transactions on a reciprocal basis. The payments, if any would be settled periodically.

Communication and Information Security Memorandum Agreement-CISOMA would allow interoperability of US and India equipments. In simple terms, it would allow the different equipments that are differentiated through encryption codes to work seamlessly without any hindrance

Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement- BECA is to facilitate exchange of geospatial information between governments for military and civilian use

Objections have been raised against these pacts because of the following reasons:

- 1)India would lose the strategic and sovereign defense sphere by allowing the US to intrude into it
- 2)Growing closeness with US may make Russia- a trusted partner-weary of plans of India
- 3)India may have to align the interests with agendas of US

However, these objections seem unfounded and India should sign these pacts because:

- 1)Countries like France and Germany have similar arrangements with US and they not necessarily align with US as happened in US invasion of Iraq in 2004
- 2)IRNSS developed by India has certain limitations and geospatial data from US can help India in times of war
- 3)India would be able to use bases of US for anti-piracy operations e.g. Diego Garcia Island in Indian Ocean
- 4)Diversifying the defense relations with US seeks to strengthen the notion of Multi-polar world

Thus, India should move forward with these pacts that will prove great experience for Indian military.

11Q. “By signing the nuclear and high-speed rail deals with Japan, India inches closer to the anti-China alliance led by the United States.” Do you agree with this view? Critically comment. (200 Words)

A significant factor responsible for India’s growing closeness with Japan is the distrust both have towards the designs of China which is embroiled in territorial disputes with both countries. Evidence of an anti-China alliance can be seen as follows –

1. Japan has participated in Indo-US Malabar Exercise and currently, the three navies are inter-operable
2. Japan amended its Constitution to facilitate the sale of amphibious crafts to India
3. The nuclear deal and high-speed rails are aimed at expediting India’s economic growth and maintain the economic balance of power in Asia
4. Both countries have voiced protest against China’s overt action in the South China Sea(SCS)

However, all these measures cannot be viewed purely as an attempt to counter China’s influence for the following reason –

1. The Malabar exercises has helped Indian navy in planning for its modernization and address other security issues of IOR such as drug-trafficking, terrorism etc.
2. Purchase of Japanese military can also be an attempt by India to diversify its purchasing options
3. India has sought economic cooperation from both China and Japan
4. India’s protests against China in SCS is also motivated by its own interests in the region

Hence, India's relations with other countries can be said to be based on realism and dependent on the exigencies of the prevailing situation.

Topic: *Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests; Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate*

1q. What do you understand by Special Drawing Rights (SDR)? Recently Renminbi was added to SDR basket. Examine its implications for China and India. (200 Words)

Special Drawing Rights are international reserve assets created by IMF in 1969 to complement gold and US Dollar in the reserve assets of its member countries. It is not a floating currency and cannot be sold or purchased in the international currency market, but only used to settle the inter se accounts of the member countries through books.

The value of SDR is based on a basket of currencies namely US Dollar, Euro, Pound Sterling, Japanese Yen and soon to be added - Yuan (Renminbi).

Implications of addition on Renminbi on China are many-

1. China will now enjoy "exorbitant privilege" where it could repay its debt using its own currency.
2. More investment will come through renminbi-dominated bonds which is good for the industries in China.
3. Hegemony of dollar can be better countered by China as its currency is internationalised.
4. Trading partners will now be willing to settle transactions using renminbi and use it as their reserve currency.
5. Greater pressure on China to make its currency fully convertible. Presently, yuan is freely usable but not fully convertible.
6. China will have to open its market and loosen its control over the exchange rate.
7. China will be forced to improve transparency and regulate shadow banking.

The inclusion of yuan on SDR basket brings with it a lot of advantages as well as challenges to India-

1. India's forex reserves can be made more diversified.
2. Excessive dependence on dollar with made India vulnerable to Federal Reserve's rate hikes can be avoided in the future.
3. Greater stability to Indian rupee.
4. India will have to diversify its rupee-dominated bonds called "masala bonds" to attract more investors to itself.

SDR created during the era of fixed exchange rate has however lost its relevance post 1970s after the fixed exchange rate collapsed. Moreover, unless China opens up its market, bring greater depth to its bond market etc, inclusion of yuan will be a mere formality and less of a milestone for the world.

2q. It is said that India faces several dilemmas in ratifying the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

Examine why. (200 Words)

India will face several dilemmas if it ratifies WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement because-

On the one hand-

- 1.It will provide easy custom clearances for Indian agriculture and textiles which are in great demand throughout the world.
- 2.It will help to attract investments by improving India's rank in the the ease of doing business index and provide a fillip to PM's Make in India programme.
- 3.It will also create employment opportunities for the Indian people.

On the other hand-

- 1.India will have to invest a lot in the modernization of trade infrastructure which will divert the expenditure from developmental programmes of the Government.
- 2.The agriculture sector in India is not mature enough to compete with the international agri exports in terms of quantity and quality.Moreover green box subsidies provided by the developed countries to their farmers are quite high as compared to subsidies given by the Indian Government to their farmers.This will be great disadvantage to the Indian farmers.
- 3.It will lead to closure of many domestic industries which will not be able to compete with the cheap and better quality exports from the developed world.
- 4.India will not be able to further bargain with the developed countries against the trade facilitation agreement for other agreements which may threaten the interest of developing countries.

3Q. It is said that if India sheds its inhibitions and participates actively in the implementation of China's One Best One Road initiative, it stands to gain substantially in terms of trade. Critically examine. (200 Words)

India has many apprehensions about OBOR initiative of China.One of them is loss of market for Indian goods.This is because India and China export similar kinds of goods to the South East Asian countries like Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam etc.These countries may divert their trade from India to China as it will be much more easier and cheaper to have an access to the goods from China due to the improved physical connectivity.

But if we analyse carefully, India will gain substantially in trade if it participates actively in the OBOR initiative-

- 1.If India participates in the initiative , it will provide a boost to India's 'Spice Route' and 'MAUSAM' project due to the improved physical connectivity in the region.
- 2.It will help India to accelerate the progress on the Chabar Port which has strategic significance for India in terms of access to Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- 3.It will also help to strengthen the economic cooperation between India and China as well as India and other countries involved in the project in terms of trade and investment due to better port and other infrastructural facilities.

4. Presently, the project is passing through Pok region. If India takes active interest in the project and persuades China to pass it through the Kashmir region in India, it will lead to economic prosperity of the region by generating employment opportunities and strengthen the trade relations between India and Pakistan.

5. By participating actively in the project, India can also persuade China to make the route pass through some more ports of India which will help to improve the port infrastructure in India and enhance its trade with even other countries.

6. It offers India as an alternative to TPP which has much more stringent requirements.

7. It will help to boost the economic cooperation between the BRICS countries as the New BRICS Bank will also be involved in the funding of this project.

However there are certain concerns for India as well –

1. Competition – Increased Chinese penetration in the markets of SE Asia and Africa may drive out Indian goods

2. RTAs – OBOR is seen as a counter to America's 'Pivot' policy and India's support for OBOR may completely prevent its inclusion in TPP

3. NE India – Threat of Chinese goods flooding NER markets

4. IOR – China will have permanent presence in IOR posing a threat to India's maritime sea-routes

5. Political – India may have to toe China's line in the AIIB, NDB, BCIM etc

4q> Critically discuss the issue of the issue of huge trade distorting farm subsidies of the rich countries and its consequent adverse impact on millions of resource poor and subsistence farmers in developing countries, and India's stand on this issue at WTO. (200 Words)

In rich countries majority of the population work in manufacturing and service sector. Agriculture sector employs very less people. So to encourage farmers they provide huge subsidies to them. This huge subsidy has distorting effect on the farmers of developing and poor countries which are:

1. Farmers in the developing countries are unable to compete against the exports of farm products from rich nation.

2. Unable to compete subsistence farmers are pushed to poverty as they are heavily dependent on agriculture. They hardly have any other alternative of employment.

3. Due to poverty issues like health, malnutrition increases.

4. Heavy competition are pushing farmers to shift to cash crops.

India's stand

1. India wants effective Special safeguard mechanism(SSM).

2. India also wants developed countries to drastically cut down farm subsidies to a level where its farm products are not at advantage.

3. It also wants permanent solution to public stockholding for the purpose of food security.

4. Implementation of package for least developed countries like duty free , quota free market access ,decision on preferential rules of origin and in the area of cotton.

India with huge poor population heavily dependent on agriculture, cannot afford relent on above issues.

5Q. Analyse the impact of recent interest rate hike by US Federal Reserve (Fed)'s on Indian economy. (200 Words)

After a decade, US Fed rate has undergone a quarter of percentage point of change, this is likely to have few implications in due course of time.

Positive implications:

- 1) Increased rate will lead to tightening & contraction of US Economy, thus taking loans in US will get costlier & investment will lessen making India a new market for Global investors.
- 2) Value of USD will get strengthen which will lead to depreciation of rupee, helping India in exports.
- 3) Indian remittances will enhance as more NRI would send money to India due to higher value in terms of Indian currency as a reason of depreciation.
- 4) Recent initiatives like Masala bonds, etc. will help those businessmen who are selling it to foreign companies.

Negative implications:

- 1) Indian imports usually consists of goods which are unavoidable, weakening of rupee will increase CAD, & might subsequently affect BoP.
- 2) If INR depreciates steeply, then RBI may intervene by selling its Forex reserves causing India suffer in longer run.
- 3) Lesser FDI from USA which can shatter the ongoing progress in Foreign policies.
- 4) Indian students studying in USA taking high amount of loans will suffer the most.

India should remain hopeful because:

- 1) Our Forex reserves are on a record high
- 2) Economy is going at fastest rate among major economies.
- 3) Improved ranking in Ease of Doing Business.
- 4) Improvement in ratings from Moody's , S&P, etc.
- 5) Global slowdown by which India is unaffected.

The interest rate was an expected affair in world market & is likely to have lesser impact on global economy than 1998, and 2004, but India must stay caution & proceed with tactics which don't just serve short term goals but also in the longer run.

6Q. Competing economies like China have been dumping goods to keep their factories running. Critically examine how dumping affects Indian economy and what measures can India take to address this issue. (200 Words)

Dumping is said to occur when the goods are exported by a country to another country at a price lower than its normal value. However, there is nothing illegal about dumping but it seriously effect the domestic producers. Same effect of dumping from China can easily be noticed in India :-

- 1- Small and medium units are finding it difficult to compete with Chinese cheaper products. For example during Diwali Indian markets flooded with the Chinese crackers as a result domestic industry seen a decline in their revenue.
- 2- Many domestic units has been shut down due to high demand for Chinese products in Indian market thus leading to high unemployment . For example more than sixty percent industrial belts of Thane and Bhivandi near Mumbai have been closed down.
- 3- Mostly dumped products are of low standard, unsafe and have a very short life therefore perceived benefits by customers don't exists in reality. For example - Cheap Chinese mobiles were very low in price that attracted Indian masses but at later stage people realized that these phones are worthless.
- 4- Increase in imports and decrease in exports.

However, there are some benefits also. These are :-

- 1- Cheaper than regular and popular brands.
- 2- Advanced features at affordable prices
- 3- Widely available
- 4- Higher margins for dealers

Measures :-

- 1- Impose Anti dumping duty
 - 2- Reduce/ curtail demand for the item - increase taxes/ duties on such goods that are imported
 - 3- Support the internal supply of goods - reduce the price of inputs or provide a support price of the item or provide government subsidies to local producers.
- Imposing non-tariff barriers like quality standards, health standards to prevent dumping of goods. (very important, like checking the chinese crackers have less sulphur content)

7Q. Europe achieved continental unification through economic means, liberal constitutionalism and a currency union. Do you think Europe practises same liberal principles when it comes to intervening in foreign matters? Critically discuss. (200 Words)

The dream of Napoleon Bonaparte to create a unified continent stands fulfilled today Europe was the last liberal empire in history. It achieved unification after World War II through dialogues on coal and steel, peace, and economic means. It established a charter of rights, it founded a European Court of Human Rights, it curbed nationalism, it broadly attained currency union the European Union one the largest in the world, held peace and security as the goal of the union & by signing of Schengen Free Zone Agreement for free movement of people.

But a proper introspection shows that if EU never reciprocates the same in its foreign matters which has in turn harmed the very existence of EU union as whole.

1. Flawed middle east policies- The intervention of European countries had turned the geopolitics domain of Middle east whether it was the Iraq invasion or the Syrian crises. It had only back fired towards the EU by giving rise to ISIS.
2. Approach towards the Refugee crisis- The exodus of refugee towards Europe and the denial of many European countries for not accommodating the refugees may question its liberal humanitarian foundation and has lead to many hard rendering crises like perishing of people in boats the body of a small child afloat the sea.
3. Greek crisis- The mayhem attitude of EU during Greek crisis has showed the flawed nature of base economic cooperation of EU on which it is based.
4. Regional Imbalances- The have and have nots among the EU region is high and there exist a lot of imbalances between the central and Balkan countries how does that reflect its liberal nature.
5. Rise of Competitive Nationalism- After Paris attack which has been mainly due to failure of European nations in providing security to its minorities mainly Muslims had given rise to one sort of protectionism among the nation to protect their own vested interest.

In that sense, and as the suspension of the Schengen arrangement by France in the aftermath of the Paris killings suggests, Europe has already arrived at a post-Schengen era in which it needs to redefine its liberal policy for its humanitarian characters.

8q. It is said that IT sector in India is vulnerable to some of US policies vis a vis this sector. Examine why. Also discuss what measures can India take in this regard. (200 Words)

Since the start of the IT boom in India, the sector has been heavily dependent on the US for its clientage. Hence it is obvious that any change in policy in US vis a vis this sector will impact the Indian IT industry. Our IT exports to US is a large chunk of our favourable Balance of Payment. US firms have largely outsourced and also welcomed Indian workforce thus we have a large diaspora and cultural contact. Some of the reasons for this phenomenon are:

1. The majority of projects that the Indian IT companies have belong to the US.
2. The presence of consultants from Indian IT companies in US is necessary for effective implementation of the projects.
3. The change in policy can adversely affect the cost of delivery and bring down the profits of the firm.
4. If the cost of sending the Indian consultants is increased or limitations put on the number of visas that can be issued, the IT companies will be forced to hire US nationals who demand much higher salary and also adversely impact the employment situation in India.

Visa fee hike hurts our labour and is against the idea of free flow of labour. We are the largest user of H1B visa and large user of L1 visas as well.

2. Software patents regime of India is not in accordance with US interests and

standards. But we are Trips compliant.

3. Sons of soil theory in US as many local jobs are awarded to migrant Indian labour and also outsourced.

4. Currency exchange rates affect offshoring decisions

The Indian companies must take the below measures in this regard:

1. Expand the clientage to other major economies including Europe, Japan, China and South America.

2. Link the cost of delivery of the project to the US VISA policies so that there is heavy lobbying by US companies to not adversely change VISA policies.

3. Make their processes location independent so that the need to send consultants to the client location is minimised.

The above policies can go a long way in solving the crisis. Indian government should also keep the option of going to the WTO open so that the matter can be addressed legally.

9Q> Do you think agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) have undermined the WTO? Critically comment. (200 Words)

With the mandate to integrate developing countries and least developing countries (LDCs) in global trade; WTO commenced its trade rules harmonising round in 2001, named Doha Development Agenda (DDA). The main objective of DDA is lowering of trade barriers around the world, and thus facilitates increased global trade.

However, it has been observed that developed countries wanted to walk away from the multilateral trading system that the WTO represents, by creating 'parallel trading partnerships' like TPP, TTIP etc. This has undermined the WTO in following ways:

1. Dis-harmonising trade rules: these parallel partnerships have divided the world into different segments (geographically) with different rules and regulations; working against WTO's mandate to create standardised rules.

2. Trade Nexus: new partnerships formed by big powers have neglected development concerns of the developing countries, only focussing to enlarge their share of economic pie; as TPP formed by US.

3. IPR rules: as WTO recognises the market power of large firms using their patent monopolies which have largely affected developing countries, other parallel partnerships are formed to protect these rights.

4. Subsidies: new agreements are opening markets without paying any attention to removing the distortions caused by subsidies and other export incentives.

Though there are issues that are being negotiated regarding the WTO's DDA like public stock-holding, changing of base year, proportion of subsidies (amber box), and farmers protection; it is important that these negotiations are brought to agreements so that developing countries could be integrated in global trade and new partnerships could be formed under the ambit of WTO

Topic: Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate

1Q. India prefers to participate in peacekeeping missions rather than peace enforcements under UN leadership. Do you think, it is time for India to change this stand? Critically comment. (200 Words)

India a leading contributor to UN peace keeping force and contributed immesnly in UN peace keeping missions but has withdrawn itself in the peace enforcement operations.

With the increase in globalisation there's a new form of imperialism these days and the countries are trying out to cater there own intrests in the name of Peace enforcement is a biggest hindrance for India to participate in peace keeping missions.

The increasing incidents of violation of sovergnity of the country in the name of Peace enforcement is against the principles of India which fought for more than a century for its sovergnity.

The changing world order where the external forces deciding the internal issues of a country, as Happening in syria is something difficult for India to accept and a fear of radicalization in India owing to its multi religious and multi ethnic society is a cause of worry for India.

But the world is changing today the and fight against Taliban or ISIS is a necessity for India for its peace and stability.

Until there's order in nations there cannot be peace in the world. Therefore India must play a active role in enforcing the peace by leading the missions against fundamentalist and terrorist organizations.

In doing so we need to make sure the sovergnity of the nation is upheld and the peoples right to self determination is not affected. India has done this in past in Bangladesh. Being a representative of third world India need to proactively fight the menance of global threats without destabilising the nation as its the third world countries of NAM which are the deeply affected by the global threats

Another view

Most 'peace enforcement' projects are politically motivated with the sole purpose to overthrow/ subdue inconvenient governments. (Iraq, Syria, etc- Cuba and Iran did not work out so sanctions!)

To get entangled will ruin its longstanding Non-Aligned position which allows for diplomatic maneuverability. It will also attract radical attention causing a threat to national security .

India should condemn violence, provide monetary and humanitarian support/aid (by sending doctors, meds, volunteers, opening doors for refugees when possible) , but not 'enforce' peace, which can only be nurtured..

*Enforcement has a violent/coercive element, which goes against peace, causes disaffection and is against the Indian spirit

2Q. Critically analyse the contribution of International Bank of Reconstruction and Development to India's socio-economic development. (200 Words)

International Bank of reconstruction and development (IBRD), is one of the lending arms of World Bank Group.

Though continuous loans can debt the Indian economy and make it dependent on IBRD but still it has played a special role in facilitating India's socio-economic development as can be seen:

- 1) Ensuring clean surroundings for people so that their health remains intact e.g. Clean Ganga River
- 2) Faster movement of goods to reduce time and subsequent cost e.g. Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridors
- 3) Cooperating with government effort in controlling AIDS as part of Millennium Development Goals e.g. National AIDS control Project
- 4) Improving literacy indicators in the country e.g. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiya
- 5) Helping the poor people to avail easy finance e.g. for development of sustainable microfinance institutions
- 6) Allowing marginal farmers to use water at low cost e.g. Rajasthan Agriculture Competitiveness Project aimed at improving water use efficiency

However, IRBD role in hampering India's socio-economic development cannot be ignored

- 1) Conditionality:- These fund come with conditionalities which may not suit the borrower country. Many conditionalities were imposed on the Sardar Sarovar Project. As India could not fulfill them, the funding was withdrawn.
- 2) Pressure from the Developed nations: the World Bank is under the grip of developed countries. In 2008, India could not get funding for electricity distribution and transmission in Arunachal Pradesh as China had objected to it.
- 3) Displacement of indigenous people : has been due to dams constructed by the funds of World Bank's IRBD.
- 4) Preference for private funding : These institutions have preferred private funding to public funding which has accentuated inequalities in India.

Though World Bank's IRBD have helped in many projects, India needs to be conscious of its drawbacks. India is pushing for governance reforms in World Bank. Institutions like BRICS banks and AIIB would also force it to change in order to remain relevant.

3Q. What do you understand by the Doha Development Agenda (DDA)? What is India's stand vis a vis DDA? Examine. (200 Words)

The Doha Round was officially launched at the WTO's Fourth Ministerial Conference (in November 2001) and is also known semi-officially as the Doha Development Agenda.

Aims of DDA:-

- 1) Major reforms of the international trading system through the introduction of lower trade barriers and revised trade rules.
- 2) Improve the trading prospects of developing countries.

India's Stand :-

1) Developing countries are disappointed about the deadlock of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) which was introduced in 2001. India says that Doha talks contain the work of many years and reflects the development aspirations of developing countries and hence, cannot be abandoned midway and has opposed the attempts of Developed nations to stall DDA

2) Issue On Subsidy:- Developed countries are giving 70-80% subsidies to their farmers, which only they can afford to give. Developing Countries don't have the wherewithal to pay these kinds of subsidies which distorts prices and make farmers vulnerable when the products hit markets.

3) Another issue for India is the provision of Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) under Agreement on Agriculture. The SSM allows countries to impose tariffs and other measures when agricultural imports cause injuries to domestic agricultural sector.

4) India wants the resolution of the issue of Public Stockholding so that it can implement Food Security act and PDS schemes properly. Indian Public stockholding has always been criticised by the western nations.

5) India has long being champion of Generic medicines, which is not received very well by the occidental developed nations. For India, India has not agreed upon the IPR clause as dictated by the WTO, because if it agrees a great section of poor patients, medical sector will be hit along with medical tourism..

Western media's alleges that India is delaying the trade talks. but India's intention is not to delay the talks rather to ensure that the talks come to a successful, logical and balanced conclusion, and fulfillment of the development dimension in every aspect.

Topic: Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability

1Q. It is argued that if pay commissions cannot bring about systemic changes, then they should be done away with. Do you agree? Critically comment. (200 Words)

With the hikes recommended by Seventh Pay Commission (SPC), it has been mooted that Pay Commissions (PC) are unable to bring systemic changes in the administrative structure and always rely over pay hikes.

Argument against PC's working:

- Lack of focus to create well-designed management system undermines productivity and efficiency, which is seldom aimed after pay hikes.
- Only central employees are taken care-of; increasing disparity among state and central employees undermines the efficacy to produce better coordination.
- It also leaves behind the pay of public employees which work at ground levels in drastic situations like fire-fighters, CRFP etc.
- Widens differences between the different groups of officers (cadres); causing acrimony, frustration, demotivation and suboptimal use of talent by the lower rung of employees.
- Leads to inflationary consequences, undermining funds for public welfare.

Argument for PC's working:

- Tries to bring parity among public employers that to with private.
- Help in encouraging youth to work for the government and bring new energy to the system.
- Gives impetus to overall personality development too; as given by SPC an addition of 25% for the skill factor.
- Increasing pay will also curb corruption; making employees more accountable, loyal and transparent to the system.
- PC also tries to maintain proper balance of number of government employees to that of population, which in India is quite distressing.

Although PC helps in making salaries in consonance with growth in economy, there is an accompanying need to modernize government machinery too, rather than ending the commission all together.

2Q. As the RTI starts its second decade, it is argued that India's government should ensure that information provision has a more impersonal face and this requires the government to invest in a data infrastructure that will allow it to go from passive to active transparency. What do you understand by active transparency? Why automation is needed in RTI? Discuss. (200 Words)

PASSIVE VS ACTIVE TRANSPARENCY

Passive transparency means sharing the minimum amount of information possible, and requires communities to seek that information out.

Active transparency on the other hand is proactive, it involves making information widely available by government to public.

Benefits of Active Transparency vis a vis passive transparency :

- 1) Citizens can directly access data without filing requests = direct empowerment of civil society in a democracy.
- 2) Researchers can use this data for a range of purposes + policy evaluation.
- 3) Unlike passive transparency, it is impersonal in nature.

Automation is primarily needed in RTI to promote operational efficiency and active transparency. It can be done by means of technical inputs, smart policy design based on collaboration, and use of agile methodology to keep projects from going astray.

It'd keep all stakeholders informed + involved in a timely manner for all the initiatives of government. Moreover it's also important for Sustainable Development Goal of revitalising the global partnership for development-which initiates availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data. Therefore by attaining automation in RTI, we'll promote active transparency which in turn will ensure operational efficiency of all other initiatives. In this light, e-governance, citizen charters and digitalisation are positive steps by Indian government.

3Q> It is common to hear from common man that government officials and public servants are not doing their job, they are insensitive, they are not accountable, they do not care, they are never punished and they never reach out to the people. Do you think a strong accountability legislation will change the attitude of public and civil servants? Critically discuss. (200 Words)

The current work culture followed by government official and public servants is riddled with problems of low levels of accountability, poor service delivery, low customer satisfaction and red-tape. In this regard, arguments are being made to bring strong accountability legislation to change their attitude. Such legislation can improve the current scenario because:

- 1) Providing the citizens with a legalized framework would allow them to take corrective action against bureaucrats
- 2) Law would ensure that activities of officials are kept under check and would force them to work for customer satisfaction

Such legislation may include Citizen Charter and Grievance Redressal Bill and Whistleblower protection Bill that provides adequate protection to the parties that take action against the bureaucrats and also handle their grievances.

However, just enacting legislation won't serve the purpose as the change has to come from within. It is quite cumbersome to draft a 'perfect' bill that would close all channels of flouting the norms of accountability. In this regard, some personality development campaigns and rolling out Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct should serve the purpose.

Further, even if the legislations are enacted, there is problem of minor legislation in the form of rules and regulations. For instance, citizens have used CVC as a mean to bring the corrupting parties on board but the time involved in departmental inquiries and the leeway provided to official to appeal have done more harm than good in ensuring accountability.

Thus, the need is to enacting laws through proper consultations and discussions and bringing changes within the personality of officials in order to make them more sensitive and customer-oriented.

Topic: e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential;

1Q. Recently Kerala was declared as India's first digital state. Examine what e-governance measures have helped Kerala bag this distinction. (150 Words)

Declaration of Kerala as India's first digital state can be seen as lesson need to be adopted by other state govt. Measures which was responsible for this success of Kerala to introduce e-governance to improve speed efficiency and transparency are -

- >100 per cent mobile density & 75 per cent e-literacy
- > Highest digital banking rate and broadband connection upto panchayat level

- > The implementation of e-district program in all districts and linking of Aadhaar and bank accounts
- > Fast and efficient intra office communication is made possible through official e-Mail.
- > Govt plan to set up wi-fi hotspots in all local self government institutions and implement complete mobile governance.
- > Implementation of CERT-K plan for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism.
- > Initiative SPARK (Service and Payroll Administrative Repository of Kerala)- implemented in all 97 offices.
- > Computerization of Employment Exchanges nearing completion.
- > First district-wide e-literacy project - AKSHAYA has been launched by Kerala.

Kerala's techno park (an IT hub, aiding and supporting innovation in IT since 1990)

Such steps will be proven significantly helpful in paving the way ahead for the efficient and effective implementation of Digital India program.

Topic: *Mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of vulnerable sections.*

1Q. According to a recent report, among all registered cases of serious crimes against women, the largest share was under “cruelty by husband and relatives”. Why do you think, despite enactment of Domestic Violence Act, violence against women in households continue to rise? Suggest feasible solutions to end such crimes. (200 Words)

Rising crime against women, largely by their own husbands and relatives, shows the distressing situation in which women have to live even after getting various laws enacted to protect them, for instance Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 (PWDVA).

This has been mainly due to following reasons:

- Women are made to realise about the social stigma that will get attached with them and at-times persuaded to save their marriage even at the cost of danger to her life.
- Patriarchal mind-set still prevails, leading to less compassion towards the victims.
- Rise in domestic violence can also be attributed to easy and cheap liquor.
- Social norms, values and attitude in India often discourage women to speak against atrocities.
- Bleak protection through laws, delay in redressal mechanisms and mainly budgetary constraints makes women not to speak.
- Lack of rehabilitation services is also a major reason for the rise.

Following steps can be taken to protect women:

- Education: giving education to every girl child, so that they can carry their lives independently rather than depending only over their husbands.
- Making women more empowered economically as well as politically.
- Reducing social biases against women by making strict laws and providing proper rehabilitation mechanisms to victims.
- Forming women grievance redressal committees in every district or even at village

level.

--- Sensitising police to handle these cases with proper care.

Since our constitution envisages equality to every citizens it is required that women are protected in every sphere of lives not only outside their homes.

2Q. The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, (PWDA) completed two decades of existence this month. However, the majority of disabled people is yet to avail the entitlements envisaged under the law. Discuss the provisions of PWDA, reasons why its implementation is lopsided and efforts needed by government to implement this act in letter and spirit. (200 Words)

PWDA 1995 provides for safety and better social inclusion of physically and mentally challenged people.

The provisions of this act are:

1. Free education for children with disability.
2. Reservation in employment and higher education .
3. Better accessibility to public places and transport system.

However the implementation of the bill has been lopsided because of reasons like:'

1. Problems in getting medical certificate declaring the candidate to be physically challenged.
2. Inefficient administration. Callous attitude of official towards plight of disabled people.
3. Lack of job opportunities. Problem in getting credit to start businesses.
4. Many symptoms not recognised as disability.

Govt. has taken steps to counter the drawbacks by introducing certain amendments to the original bill like:

1. It has increased the number of conditions for disability to 16.
2. It has provided for the temporary and plenary guardianship for people who are mentally challenged.
3. It has provided for setting up of disability commission at center and state level for better monitoring of implementation of schemes related to the disabled people.

Further govt. can also make provision like:

1. easy access to credit for people with disability to set up small business.
2. providing skill development training so that they could be absorbed in service sector.
3. Providing better redressal mechanism so that their issues can be heard and resolved quickly. Using IT in innovative way for achieving this goal.

Physically challenged people can be integrated to society and can prove to be asset rather than liability.

This can be achieved with slight support and increasing awareness.

Inclusion of physically challenged people will be a great leap in towards much touted goal of inclusive development.

3Q. Critically discuss why implementation of Schedule Tribe and other Forest Dwellers, Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006 and the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, are said to be crucial to address many social and economic problems faced by vulnerable sections in India. (200 Words)

Forest Rights(FR) Act, 2006 and Rt to fair compensation, Land acquisition(LARR) Act, 2013 were passed to secure the vulnerable forest dwellers and the victims of forced or illegal land eviction respectively.

Before such acts the challenges of forest dwellers were-

1. Non-recognition of forest land ownership.
2. No legal access to minor forest produce and grazing.
3. land alienation, displacement and impact on longevity of tribes.

Challenges of land acquisition were-

1. No attractive compensation.
2. No Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and mandatory consensus.

FR act addresses the concerns in the following way-

- i) Title rights- upto 4 hectare cultivated land ownership thus to reduce social alienation.
- ii) use rights-addressing economic concerns by accessing minor forest produce, grazing, pastoralist routes.
- iii) Relief and Developmental rights- post displacement rehabilitation and provision of basic amenities.
- Iv) Forest Management rights- right to protect forest and wildlife gives a sense of social responsibility.

LARR addresses economic concerns as-

- I) 4 times higher compensation than market price to both directly affected and dependent artisans.
- ii) 80% mandatory consensus and EIA.

But without effective implementation at ground, people will remain unaware of the complex process of tenant ownership and eligibility criteria for that (75 yrs staying/ST) and misunderstand FR act as a land distribution scheme.

The role of Gram Sabha is very important here and EIA should be more effective to hear people's voices.

Otherwise social and economic sustainability of these people will never be secured and face exploitation.

4Q. Critically discuss why it is argued reservations are necessary for SC, ST and Other backward communities. (200 Words)

Reservation is a form of quota based affirmative action to allow the so called deprived classes to come at par with so called privileged ones.

The arguments in favour of why reservation must continue is:

1. Benefits of reservation have failed to trickle down to the lowest sections of the society even after 68 years of independence therefore reservations must continue.

2. Recent survey by NSSO shows that there still exists large gaps between various social groups in terms of higher education where SC are the most backward followed by ST and OBC.

3. It is necessary for the reservations to continue to uplift the socially and underprivileged to stabilize them economically.

Against reservation:

1. Development of one section of the society should not be at the cost of other sections.

2. Caste category cannot decide whether he/she is eligible for admission or not, what matters is merit.

3. Caste cannot be the sole criteria for ascertaining whether a particular caste is backward or not. Determinants such as poverty, occupation, place of habitation could be relevant factors to be taken into consideration.

4. It has killed the spirit of brotherhood and healthy competition.

If one takes a look at the issue objectively one will realize that intention behind reservation is not faulty but its implementation has proved ineffective.

Making education mandatory and free, proposing reservation based on economic status and providing opportunity to students to earn while they study can help remove reservation as early as possible.

5Q. Do you think the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and Rules are unfair to the victims of crime at the hands of juveniles? Critically comment. (200 Words)

The Juvenile Justice Act had been enacted with a view to rehabilitate the juvenile (below 18 years of age) who commit crimes. However, the recent release of juvenile in Nirbhaya Rape Case after 3 years has raised question over the provisions of this act.

The act seems unjustified on the following grounds:

1) Most of the crimes are committed by the juveniles in the age group of 16-18 years and hence the 18 years of age for treating juvenile should be reduced

2) The rehabilitative care for juveniles doesn't help heal the wounds of victims or parents who believe in retributive justice

3) US and Australia have laws which can provide hard punishment to juveniles in case of committing a heinous crime

4) Strong punishment serves as a deterrent to other juveniles with similar mentality

However, the act can be justified on the following grounds:

1) Placing a juvenile with hardened criminals instead of rehabilitation centre can make him even a greater criminal

2) Scientific studies have shown that brain is not completely developed till the age of 18

3) Efforts should be made to integrate the juvenile again with the society rather than isolating him through retribution

Thus, in my opinion existing Juvenile Justice Act is appropriate because a 'tit for tat' policy never results in reformation of a person. Further, it must be noted that it is the

failure of society and state to provide a conducive environment to the juvenile whereby he/she could grow and prosper. It was because of the presence of an environment of criminals and persons with a mischievous mindset that he/she committed an act of such heinousness. Any efforts to lower the age of Juvenile only seeks to relieve the responsibility of executive of providing a safe and secure environment to the citizens.

6Q. Critically comment on the important provisions of the new Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2015. (200 Words)

All this Juvenile Justice hullabaloo over the 16-18 year juvenile to be tried as adult has seems to overshadow the scrutiny of the bill on its merits of its progressive measure and other gaps and shortcomings in this bill.

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill (JJ Act) is an amendment over JJ Act 2000 with takes into consideration the child in 'conflict with law' and child in 'need of protection'

It defines Child as per UNCRC resolution as any one below age of 18 years but adds a provision under which 16-18years can be tried as adult if crime was committed with a 'adult-like' mind. For this a Juvenile Justice Board(JJB) which a team of 'experts' is to be constituted. This provision is seen as contentious as scientific studies have show that children below age of 18 have a naive mind and cannot ascertain what is right or wrong for them. Moreover in indian context with its inadequacy in medical expertise, are JJB experts capability to carry on accurate 'prediction' of minds of a juvenile is to be discussed and debated. The increasing no. of crime by juvenile based on NCRB data is based on FIR filed and not based on those convicted.

Morover it would go against the principle of Articles 14 (unequal treatment of 16 - 18 year olds) and 15(3) and Articles 20(1) and 21 of the Constitution.

Rest of the provisions seems to be progressive and indeed sounds well placed at least on paper such as :

1. Child Welfare Committee has been identified, empowered and given statutory functions in each district to handle Child in need of care and protection.(abandoned chlid)
- 2.It cater to their developmental needs through proper care, protection and treatment by adopting a child-friendly approach.
- 3.Inter-country adoption allowed if adoption cannot take place within the country, within 30 days of child being declared legally free for adoption
4. The bill also has provision for care for victims family by counseling to overcome the loss.

With bill already passed in RS, its success will lie on how effectively Govt. improves the capacity of its already dilapidated infrastructure and ensures expertise and sensitivity in dealing with juvenile justice through a 'rehabilitative and reformative' approach. This bill may also have to pass the scrutiny of SC on its 'constitutionality'

7Q. “The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2015 ignores the reality of juvenile crime and disempowers the most vulnerable section of our society.” Critically comment. (200 Words)

The Juvenile Justice Amendment Bill(JJAB) attempts to address public concern over the issue of heinous crimes being committed by juveniles. The criticism against the bill are –

1. The bill is against Art 1 of UN Convention of Rights of Child(UNCRC) which considers everyone under 18 to be a child
2. It is against Right to Equality of children under Art 14 and Art 15(3) as it exposes them to Adult Criminal Justice system
3. Does not regard the State’s ineffectiveness in fulfilling Art 39(f) of DPSP which requires State to provide opportunities and facilities for healthy development of children

However, a closer inspection will reveal that the criticism levelled against JJAB may be unfounded in numerous cases –

1. Art 40 of UNCRC allows governments to set a minimum age for children to be tried in criminal courts
2. A modern State cannot guarantee absolute individual rights as has been manifested in the ‘reasonable restrictions’ of Art 19(1)(a-g) in Art 19(2-6)
3. According to NCRB 2013 statistics, rise in crimes against women was highest by juveniles
4. Provision for foster care for children has been provided

Hence, inspite of the widespread criticism, JJAB may prove to be a landmark legislation which lowers instances of crimes against women which is a pressing social issue for the country.

8Q. Critically discuss the need for prison reforms across India. (200 Words)

Prisoners are the weakest and the least thought about section of society. Neither they have Voting rights nor access to outside world(even Partly), very limited access to family and no communication without censorship from prison authorities, Overall they are under the complete control of the prison authorities.

Lets See Why Prison Reforms are need of the Hour:-

- 1)overcrowding:- To illustrate, in Tihar Jail as against the housing capacity of 2,500 persons in 1994-95, there were 8,500 prisoners.
- 2)Majority of the Prisoners are Under-Trials (according to stats 65% of the prisoners are under-trials i.e its not established that they are offenders) and they might be held in over crowded Jails for Years.
- 3)The prisons in India suffer from unhygienic conditions, lack of proper medical care and constant danger of exploitation and torture.
- 4)The Number of Custodial Deaths have increased in the recent past along with this torture and ill- treatment of prisoners.
- 5)Delay in trials:-A person proceeded against criminal law has to undergo mental

agony, expense and strain. This when coupled with delay results in impairing the capability of the accused to defend himself.

Some Suggested reforms:-

- 1) Bringing more transparency in the Prison System. The more opaque it is the worse it gets.
- 2) Increasing the number of Prisons so as to remove the problem of Overcrowding.
- 3) Improving the sanitary measures (building and betterment of Infrastructure).
- 4) A serious thought on the Fundamental rights of Prisoners should be given.
- 5) A separate prison cell for Under-Trials.

We need to strike a balance between the constitutional rights of prisoners on one hand and a larger public interest, on the other. In addition to this, efforts need to be made to make a better citizen out of the prisoner so that he does not become a hardened criminal after being freed from the prison.

Topic: *River disputes; Quasi judicial bodies, regulatory bodies*

1Q. Write a critical note on Krishna River water dispute and critically evaluate the successes of tribunals in resolving river water disputes in India. (200 Words)

The major issues between the three concerned States (AP, Maharashtra and Karnataka) are –

1. In colonial times, Krishna water was shared between Mysore, Madras and Hyderabad princely States based on mutual agreements which were not invalidated even after the KWDT was setup
2. Several dams such as the Srisailem dam, Nagarjun dam etc have been built on Krishna and lower-riparian States have accused upper-riparian States of diverting excessive water
3. Tribunal has faced issues like absence of data of past 50 years to determine developed flow
4. The Telengana govt has asked for a review of the water-sharing formula

The role played by Tribunals in adjudicating river water disputes can be seen as follows –

1. Successes –

- (i) Tribunal have been successful in resolving Godavari, Narmada and Cauvery River disputes
- (ii) The role of tribunals extends beyond mere adjudication to investigative roles such as flood control, impact on ecology etc
- (iii) Is the medium through which the Union fulfils its responsibility of developing Inter-State rivers (Entry 56-List I)

2. Limitations –

- (i) The Tribunals have often been caught up on legal issues while ignoring the technical nature of the problem
- (ii) They are only setup on request by the States since suo-motu powers have not been accorded to the Parliament

(iii) Their awards are routinely challenged under Art 136(Special Leave Petition to the SC)

2Q. Examine why the Mullaperiyar dam issue has become bone of contention between Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Examine if the union government can help resolve this issue. (200 Words)

The Mullaperiyar dam is operated by TN as per an agreement between erstwhile princely State Travancore and Madras State. The main issues of contention are –

1. Concerns of Kerala -
 - (i) The dam poses a threat to the Idduki dam which is the largest source of hydroelectric power in Kerala
 - (ii) Threat to the Periyar National Park and people located around the dam's reservoir
2. one more concern for kerala is the tourism investments it has made in periyar lake (catchment area of the dam basically) which would be lost if the height is increased as per tamilnadu's demand. Also the threat to their largest city, Cochin, which is directly in the line of fire incase of a mishap

2. Concerns of TN -

- (i) The dam is safe as repair work was carried out in 1979
- (ii) Lowering of water levels in the dam is causing huge agricultural loses in TN and shortage of drinking water

The SC in 2014 had struck down Kerala's Dam Law of 2006 by arguing that it is an Inter-State Water Dispute and Kerala Government cannot alone take measures on the issue.

The Union government isn't able to setup an Inter-State Water Dispute Tribunal under Art 262 as the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 requires the State governments to approach it for the setting up of a tribunal. However, there are certain measures available for the Union –

1. Constructing water desalinization plants in coastal regions to provide for the drinking water of TN
2. Rehabilitation of the people living near the reservoir
3. Setting up an expert Committee to look into the safety issues and inform the SC
4. Amend the ISWD Act to empower the Parliament to take suo-moto cognizance of such disputes as per Sarkaria Commission recommendations

[As per the expert committee report, Present condition of dam can't withstand the raised level of water IF RAISED. Structure is built with primitive technology of LIME and MORTAR masonry by British Pennycuick who predicted the structure lifespan as 50yeras. 120 year old Dam in idduki district of Kerala which is home of Munnar and many other tea garden. IISc and Geological survey also predicted that Ritcher scale 6 in Dam area. Kerala demands a new dam to be constructed and till then reservoir level to be reduced below 136 feet while TN insists for 142feet to provide water for irrigation and peak electricty supply.]

3q. “The first 15 years of this century in India will be known as the period that witnessed the advent of sectoral regulators.” Discuss. (200 Words)

With the advancement of the economy the existing sectors expanded and new sectors emerged, this increased the complexities of regulations and therefore emerges the need to have an independent regulator having expert knowledge and empowered to deal with a specific sector. It is in this context we need to see the last one and half a decade journey of our democratic history.

Some of the Regulatory laws created in this period were.

1. The Competition Act, 2002
2. The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act)
3. The Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002
4. The Electricity Act, 2003
5. The Special Economic Zones Act, 2005

Numerically there are 16 such regulatory laws. At the first look it may appear that we are a highly regulated economy. But at a closer look we find that we still don't have a coal regulator or a fertilizer regulator both of which are part of the eight core sectors of the economy. The political exigencies ensured that the monsoon and winter session did not pass the real estate regulatory bill or the Unfair Terms in Contract Bill or the GST.

So in the first 15 years of this century, the nation have passed some significant regulatory bills, but still there is some distance to be covered to create an Autonomous Regulatory Architecture covering all the core and significant sectors

Topic: *Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes;*

1q. Critically analyse the implications of right to free and compulsory education act (RTE) on private schools and beneficiary children. (200 Words)

RTE Act 2009, was implemented to improve the conditions of the basic foundation of learning of the children in a progressive way. There were certain aspects of RTE which were appreciable and are as:

- 1) RTE Act 2009 mentions “no detention policy”, that no children upto class 8th can be failed so that they do not feel burden on them.
- 2) RTE aims to analyse the growth of a student by Comprehensive and Continuous Evaluation (CCE) throughout the year.
- 3) Special classes for deprived and poor candidates from economically challenged families.
- 4) RTE mentions 25% students to be supported by private institutions
- 5) Also, RTE mentions school working hour, teacher working hour and teacher-pupil ratio with school's minimum infrastructure.

Due to no detention policy, incompetency is growing in children.

- 2) Teachers through CCE are not able to analyse the student's growth as they themselves are not skilled in CCE process

completely.

3) Due to intake of 25% of students from poor families, private institutes are finding it hard to pay their teachers which is leading a load on their budget, and are selling their schools.

The non-availability of the required infrastructure led to closure of many schools

3)Autonomy of private schools was eroded because they were to act according to the whims of the government

4)The provision of Essential Certificate under RTE act decides the number of schools in a particular area. Government colluded with private schools in some areas and led to closure of other schools

5)Children's right to have a good quality education was eroded because of absence of schools

6)The closure of budget schools forced the children to opt for government schools where quality education was not available

7)Some parents also availed of high class private schools in face of closure of budget schools. This made the financial situations difficult and nutritional needs of children were neglected

As RTE Act 2009 was made for improving the structure of our education's basic foundation, much still needs to be done. CCE should be made more tangible. Instead of defining teacher working hour and school working hour, school's progress report should

be made annually according to performance of their children, and it should also be checked that government policies should not put load on private institutes who are performing good.

2Q. The Centre is contemplating bringing in a viable insurance scheme for farmers given that the agriculture sector is facing a lot of challenges due to recurrent droughts, floods and other weather-related changes. In this regard, critically comment on performance of existing agricultural insurance schemes. (200 Words)

Given the lack of weather predictability, lack of adequate extension services, farmer illiteracy, poverty and generally dismal state of farming as a business and vocation, Agricultural insurance assumes importance. In this regard, the following insurance schemes are already hedging various risks faced by farmers:

1. NAIS- National agricultural crop insurance scheme. Introduced in 1999, an all-risk scheme based on "area yield index" operating in few states.

2. NCIP- National crop insurance program of india has 3 components. Private companies implement these and loanee farmers are covered by default.

⇒□2.1 Modified NAIS (MNAIS) = covers all food crops, oilseeds, sugarcane. helps stabilise farm income, esp. in disaster years.

⇒□2.2 WBCIS (weather based crop insurance) = covers most weather based risks for most crops

⇒□2.3 Coconut palm insurance scheme (CPIS) = works on annual contract maintained by AICP.

3. Besides these existing schemes include Livestock Insurance scheme started in 2005

Implementation lags behind targets as weather data is not duly available, delay in settlement of claims, disparity in penetration and lack of financial inclusion. One third of global production is lost or wasted annually in post-production, harvesting, transportation and storage.

Between 1, 2, and 3 almost all crops, all weather conditions and all farmers in all states stand covered, however need for new schemes arises due to the vagaries of climate change, need for strengthening capital base for extension services (Kisan TV funding) and improvements in technology (like drones, sprinkler and drip irrigation, storage and marketing facilities), so introduction of new insurance schemes for chasing these progressive ideas is a welcome goal

3Q. “Apart from its aversion to understanding and confronting discrimination, the Rajbala vs State of Haryana, judgment suggests an underlying current of distrust towards democracy itself.” Critically analyse. (200 Words)

The Supreme Court has upheld the constitutional amendment to the Haryana Panchayati Act disbaring candidates for panchayat elections, who are illiterate or do not fulfill some other conditions. The judgement suggests an underlying current of distrust towards democracy as follows:

- Disenfranchising a citizen is depriving him from a civil right i.e. the right to vote. Adult franchise was one of the pillars of constitution formation
- While the state is to be blamed for lack of education and toilets in the household, it is disheartening to witness that the citizens suffer due to the state's failures
- The educated essentially form the elite class among the villagers and do not represent the majority. Hence it is further eroding the democratic principles of representation
- Judicial activeness in striking down the NJAC for its independence, while debarring citizens of their rights generates further mistrust for the ultimate interpretation to be in the wrong hands

On the other side the amendment might lead to a brighter future as follows:

- Education requirements would activate societal unions for better schools and strict implementation of RTE keeping the government on its toes. Though out of necessity, families will have an incentive to send their children to schools
- People would pay-back the loans on time as well as clear the dues
- Compulsion of toilets at homes would lead to cleaner environment

The government has taken a reactive step instead of a pro-active one. Only time will tell whether the protests would cause repeal or the incentives do wonders.

Topic: *Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.*

1q. Analyse the implications of National Green Tribunal's decision to bar the registration of new and old diesel vehicles in Delhi on consumers, car manufacturers and environment. (200 Words)

Recently, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered to bar the registration of new and old diesel vehicles in DELHI. This has come after the HC calling the national capital as a "gas chamber" of the country. This may have the following implications:

1) Consumers :

People who were seen looking to buy a new vehicle will have to wait for some time. Furthermore, this decision may lead them to switch from diesel to petrol, hence an advantage to the environment. But the retailers may reduce the price after the bar is lifted, which would mean more sale = more influence on the environment.

2) Car manufacturers : It will be a major push towards R&D if they want to capture the middle class market. So they may invent and deploy certain devices by which end consumers and environment is the beneficiary (like Catalytic converters to control NOx). But their sales are sure to decrease. However, an environmentally aware citizen may not buy diesel vehicles which means a revenue loss, disinterest and reluctance in setting up new manufacturing plants.

3) Environment : Environment will be the ultimate beneficiary until the bar is lifted. However, if people don't realise and run towards the cheaper mobiles later, it may backfire. Also, seeing the present condition, a comparatively improved air quality index can be suspected in the coming days.

Instead of bar and bans, efforts towards BS-V emission standards, sub-par quality fuelling checkpoints, awareness among the people, check on the straw/stubble burning and afforestation- One Person One Year One tree can be done

2Q. India has one of the lowest diffusion rates for broadband among the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa grouping, or BRICS. India has also been very slow in terms of the diffusion of mobile phone services. Examine recent trends and policy challenges that exist in increasing diffusion rate. (200 Words)

The recent trends in increasing broadband diffusion rates can be seen as follows –

1. Policy measures – Various programmes like the National Broadband Plan, National Optical Fibre Network and the National Telecom Policy (2012) have been aimed at increasing broadband penetration
2. Diffusion rate – Broadband diffusion has remained low and the marginal growth is attributed to the increase in mobile broadband services

3. Rural-urban divide – Although mobile usage in rural areas consists of 43% of the total, only a quarter of broadband users are in rural areas primarily due to infrastructural bottlenecks and lack of incentives for telecom companies

4. Comparison with BRICS – Although, India broadband diffusion is lowest compared to other BRICS countries, its growth in the last three years has been the fastest

The policy challenges which are preventing increased broadband diffusion are –

1. Infrastructural deficiencies – Broadband policies have not adequately focused on improving mobile broadband infrastructure which is the primary driver for increasing broadband penetration

2. Demand-side issues – Demand is low due to the lack of indigenous content which people can access in their own language

3. Unlicensed spectrum – Unlicensed spectrum can be used to promote services like Wi-Fi which are currently unused due to lack of permission from regulatory authorities

4. Digital literacy – Broadband diffusion cannot be increased without explicit focus on digital education for effective usage

3Q. “After the microfinance controversy, leading to a stringent law against recovery, this call money racket highlights Andhra’s broken lending system.” Critically comment on the ‘call money’ racket and its impact on borrowers. (200 Words)

The ‘call money’ racket in Andhra Pradesh is a system in which finance is made available to the borrower at an exorbitant rate of interest. The lender gets some form of security from borrower and also possesses the power to demand repayment thus resulting in ‘calling money’ back.

This market has the following impacts:

Positives-

- 1) Borrower gets the money that he/she can use in different ventures
- 2) Ease of availability of finances because the system escapes the formal banking channel and funds are available at doorstep

Negatives-

- 1) Exorbitant interest wreak havoc on lives of borrower as their property is taken away and they are subjected to sexual and mental harassment
- 2) The ‘call money’ market is unregulated and whims of lenders can’t be controlled through proper means as in the case of banks
- 3) Politicians have been a major entity in the whole racket and have used the huge interest received for furthering their own interest thus giving rise to black money

In this regard, Andhra Pradesh government has promised to try the offenders under stringent provisions of Nirbhaya act and a special court has been setup to expedite the proceedings.

In my opinion, the ‘call money’ racket is no less than the gross violation of human rights as the borrowers are being sexually abused. Beefing up the financial intelligence, making citizens aware of such practices and encouraging them to

approach police in case of harassment should be the way forward to curb such practices.

4Q. Critics argue that there are many different ways by which internet can be made available to vast majority of unconnected people in developing countries rather than opting for Facebook's Free Basics offer. Discuss. (200 Words)

The different ways other than the zero rating apps which can make internet accessible for all are-

1. Some amount of data should be provided free of cost or at discounted rates and the companies paying for it should get only a 'brought to you by' attribution. This model is being practiced in many African countries and Middle Eastern countries.
2. People watch ads in order to get access to other websites. Mozilla is working with Grameenphone in Bangladesh where users get 20 MB data free after watching short ads.
3. When financially well off people recharge their internet account, they can be asked to donate small amounts of money (Rs 1 to Rs 10) for providing internet services to the poor.
4. Donating money towards free internet access for the poor should be encouraged as a part of CSR initiative of the telecom companies.
5. Effective utilization of the Universal Service Obligation Fund which has been lying unutilized as indicated in the recent CAG report.
6. Even modification in the zero rating schemes like delinking free internet access from specific content and limit it by volume or time.
7. Increasing competition and countering monopolies will automatically reduce the cost of access to internet and even the poor will be able to afford it.

Increasing the income of people through higher economic growth is a long term solution to make internet accessible to all.

Topic: Salient features of Indian constitution, Fundamental rights

1Q. Do you think Sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code should be repealed? Justify. (200 Words)

Sections 499 and 500 of Indian Penal Code sought to criminalize defamation. The acts have drawn praise and ire from different sections of the society. Arguments in favor of keeping these sections intact are:

- 1) Civil suits take longer time than criminal suits
- 2) Criminal defamation acts as a deterrent to people for propagating any wrong information
- 3) Fundamental right of individual to protect his/her dignity

However, a deeper analysis shows that these acts have done more harm than good. Criticism against these acts stems because of the following reasons:

- 1) Restrictions under these acts are too broad and have a chilling effect on free speech

- 2) Onus of proving that a statement spoken is true and is for public good lies on the shoulders of accused
- 3) Prosecution of persons on ground that he/she has conspired with the person who actually committed "defamation"
- 4) Person can be prosecuted even for defaming a deceased person, a provision that is illogical
- 5) Public institutions which should work for promoting political speeches also file defamation suits in order to protect their own identity
- 6) Acts can be misused to settle political scores and thwart others' freedom of speech
- 7) Structure of section 499/500 dates back to 1860 and thus the law is not in tune with the present trends of promoting free speech (as can be seen with repeal of section 66A of IT Act)
- 8) Criminal defamation puts the accused in jail along with other hard core criminals who have committed rape or murder

In wake of all these arguments, it can be said that a better mid-way approach would be to use the sections of civil law to handle with genuine cases of defamation rather than making such stern acts a ploy in the hands of politicians.

2Q. It is said that Secularism is implicit in the entire constitutional framework and there was no need of inserting the word 'secular' in the preamble. Critically comment. (200 Words)

Secularism means that state provides equal treatment to all religion. It does not mean that country is non religious or it does not believe in religion, in Indian definition it simply means if you are supporting a religion then state would not differentiate you on this basis. It was added in 1976 in constitution to ensure to all religion which is necessary in a diverse country like India.

Now many spoke person of present govt are of the view that secularism is already an implicit part of Indian constitution & it is not necessary specifically show it. They are criticizing it mainly because sometime it is used for increasing tension b/w communities, & also causes delay in justice. Still doing it is not right because:

- 1) Historical reason: Constitution makers have not added the word specifically because they had already provided its pieces at many places like art(14-17, 19, 25, 27-30) & also in DPSP(art 44, 48). But many incidents after independence like wars, emergency, JK matter, forced govt to mention it in preamble.
- 2) Profit of writing: Our constitution makers favored written constitution to maintain the very core of it. In this way it becomes necessary to explicitly mention secularism, so that not only us but future generation tend to recognize the importance of it.
- 3) Diversity: India has a unique diversity feature unlike many other countries, so the importance of secularism increases.
- 4) Need to get away with misuse: Of course there are many ill effects by often using it for ill practices. But the need of the hour is to have an efficient government mechanism & independent judiciary which would preserve the true colors of secularism.

Overall, explicit mentioning of secularism has done more good than harm, as now even youths are realizing the principles on which the country functions. Need of the

hour is to channelized the energy of masses in right direction, so that they could peacefully put their grievances in front of govt. & become a part in nation development.

3Q. Do you think the Agamas, practised in South Indian temples, violate Articles 14 and 15 and 17? Critically examine. (200 Words)

Agamas are the rules that govern temple construction and worship and dictate the eligibility of those to be appointed to important religious positions in the temple, including the priests. Recently, the SC upheld the validity of these rules and therefore doubts have expressed whether this practice is violative of Article 14, 15 and 17 of Indian constitution.

Article 14-Right to equality and equal protection of law; Article 15-prohibition of discrimination

The SC order doesn't violate Article 14 and 15 because Agama rules are not caste based because even some sections of Brahmins are not allowed to enter Sanctum Sanctorium. However, Agama practice works against women who are forbidden from assuming the position of priest and thus Article 14 is violated on grounds of "sex".

Article 17-Abolishes untouchability in any form

SC used the same grounds as mentioned above to validate that the practice doesn't violate Article 17. However, certain sections of non-Brahmin, Brahmin and women are alienated from becoming priests or entering the sanctorium because of the falsified notion of being "impure". The Untouchability (offences) Act enacted to validate the provisions of Article 17 also mentions that no section of the society shall be forbidden from performing any religious service in places of public worship.

Thus, it can be said that SC should again take up the matter on suo-motu basis and should involve all relevant stakeholders to come out with a better decision.

Topic: Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.

1Q> "Money power is the only unsolved problem in Indian elections, the root cause of all corruption." Elaborate. Also suggest how money power can be curbed during elections. (200 Words) Unprecedented growth in campaign expenditure complicates the formidable task of the Election Commission (EC) to curb the role of 'money power' during elections.

Why Money Power is unresolved:-

- 1) Funding of Political Parties by Private players/interest groups is unaccounted in most of the cases.
- 2) Money is something everyone needs, Voters/Candidates hence it becomes easy to involve voters in this corrupt practice.
- 3) No Fool Proof method has yet been devised in India to keep a check on increasing use of Money in elections.
- 4) Unwillingness of the Govt. and other political Parties to implement the checks as it will harm them only.

Elections involve money on a very large scale, What Follows such huge money is "Corruption".

How Money Leads to Corruption:-----

- 1) Elections are a very good Source of Making Back Money --->White.
- 2) Money that you spend at the time of election is much beyond the legally prescribed limit, obviously the candidates who spent so much will try to get money back, with an interest probably, and that is how corruption begins.
- 3) If one party Person spends a lot of money, then the other person also has to spend a lot of money. And thus this race of outspending paves the way for Corruption.
- 4) Buying Voters / Distributing Liquor / Blankets etc are corrupt practices which are only possible because of Money.

How to Curb the Increasing Influence of Money:-

- 1)Creating awareness among citizens on ethical voting practice.
- 2)Making it mandatory for Political Parties to show the source of every fund/Contribution it received(even less than 20000).
- 3)Making it compulsory for political parties to do the spending through a single account and that too cashless.
- 4)Political Parties must be brought Under the ambit of RTI.
- 5) NOTA has not been very effective in Curbing the Money Power, Right to Recall can be a positive step to take.
- 6)opening of separate division in the EC to oversee election expenditure
- 7) Deployment of flying squads and surveillance teams to keep vigil over movement of cash linked with candidates or political parties.

Topic: *Parliament and State Legislatures – structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.*

1Q. What is the rationale behind nominating members to Rajya Sabha? Do you think this provision should be repealed from the Constitution? Justify. (200 Words)

Under Article 80 of the Indian constitution, President nominate 12 eminent persons to rajyasabha who have special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as literature, science, art and social service.

Rationale Behind the nomination:

> The constitution has ensured that the nation must also receive services of the most distinguished persons of the country who have earned distinction in their field of activity, many of whom may not like to face the rough and tumble of the election.

> To enrich the debates by their expertise and knowledge that they have in different areas.

Should it be repealed?

> On a real stance, it should not be repealed, because of

1. It has proved that contribution from nominated members is vital to draw effective and efficient results. Eg. Zakir Hussain blue print on education.

2. Repealing disable the participation of civil society in parliamentary affairs which is not healthy.

3. Representation of nominated members as high watermark of literature build up its value.

In the light of present scenario, the morale of nominated members is declining due to exclusion in discussions and result in absenteeism. To recover the situation, there is

a need to made the nominated members participation compulsory and accountable is a way ahead.

2Q. “The Upper House is a creation of imperialism and independent India did not need it.” Critically comment. (200 Words)

The idea of Upper House came up during British times and it was implemented in the form of GOI Act, 1919 to create a “Council of States”. However, the India constitution makers also adopted this provision and legitimized Rajya Sabha. Off late, concerns have been raised on the need of Rajya Sabha because of the following reasons:

- 1) Representatives in rajya Sabha are indirectly elected and so it is doubtful that whether they represent the will of people or not
- 2) Rajya Sabha has become a house for losing candidates who have been rejected by people
- 3) Rajya Sabha tends to slow the legislation-making process and thus is hurdle in development of country. The recent impasse over GST Bill is a testimony to this fact

However, it would be wrong to completely reject the utility of Rajya Sabha as it seeks to serve the following purpose:

- 1) Rajya Sabha represents the states and thus thwart any tyrannous attempts of the centre
- 2) Rajya Sabha is a place of experienced political stalwarts whose insights are greatly needed to enrich the democratic character of Indian polity
- 3) Rajya Sabha represents the will of states and thus certain functions like allowing Parliament to legislate over states' subjects, creation of All-India Service are better handled by Rajya Sabha

In my opinion, the utility of Rajya Sabha in the present times has actually increased because elections in Lok Sabha are conducted on the basis of first past the post (FPTP) system under which a majority government can be formed without even securing 50% of the votes. Hence, it is doubtful whether Lok Sabha represents the will of people. In such a scenario, the Rajya Sabha seems to be a channel to bring the government on table in order to enforce the will of people.

3Q. “Urgent steps are needed to restore Parliament’s role as a deliberative body rather than as one prone to disruptions.” What these urgent steps could be and how they can be implemented? Critically comment. (200 Words)

Parliament reflects India's true democratic character and endow with power to legislate laws for the country. However, the Parliament performance over the years has been decline. for example, Last Loksabha has lost 79% of its scheduled time due to heckling and hollering.

1. Reserve a days for Opposition to set agenda for Parliament: This will ensure that Govt cannot shy away from discussing issues are inconvenient to it and in other days parliamentary work won't suffer and gets adequate time for discussion. This practice is being followed in Canada, allots 22 days every calendar year for opposition.

2. Parliament should meet around the year instead of three sessions. MP's get sufficient time to raise issues they think important. For example, Britain has five 12 month sessions over every parliament. Speaker chart out the entire calendar year as soon as new government is formed, marking periods of recess, hours of meeting everyday of the week, on which opposition gets preference to raise issues

3. Prompt against MP's those who disrupts the House: Speaker should take necessary action if a member continuously disrupts the house.

4. No daily allowance for MP's if no business is done: at least with would decrease burden on exchequer if no business is carried out.

Parliament must fulfill its critical role of reflecting the aspiration of citizens and guide the nation towards social and economic justice. Political parties must come out of their parochial nature and should work in the interest of the country. This would alone strengthen our democratic culture in the country.