

GS SCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

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SRUSHTI DESHMUKH

Rank - 5

GS Paper II Marks - 111

GS Mains Q&A
General Studies Paper - II



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GENERAL STUDIES - PAPER II

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Q.	Marks	<i>Instructions to Candidate</i>
1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are 25 questions.• All questions are compulsory• The number of marks carried by a question is indicated against it.• Answer the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 words each. Contents of the answer is more important than its length.• Answers must be written within the space provided. <p>Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.</p>
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REMARKS

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Q1. Recently, there has been a controversy over "Master of the Roster". What are the issues involved? Discuss the problems with current system and their consequences. What could be the possible way-out? (10 Marks)

Judicial system in India faced a controversy regarding the allocation of cases to the Supreme Court benches by the Chief Justice of India recently.
(CJI)

Issues Involved are:

- Since by judicial conventions, Chief Justice is the 'Master of Roster'
- Implying that he decides on which bench will hear which case.
- This creates 'monopoly' in decision making as no other stakeholder/person is consulted.
- Collegium judges came out to voice their opinion against presumably partial allocation

Problems with current system & Consequences

- Being the chief judicial representative - CJI has the power to allocate cases on his own.

Remarks

- Careful analysis might appear that CJI allegedly allocated cases on a partisan basis to impact the decision in a certain way.
- No accountability mechanism exists to check the randomness of allocation.
- Certain judges on specific bench ~~can~~ ^{could} be seen acting in a manner favourable to a case against CJI [University Admission case].

Possible way out:

- Even SC in recent judgement held, that CJI continues to be Master of Roster & he is not supposed to consult collegium for allocation as demanded by advocates Prashant Bhushan.
- CJI could himself become transparent about case allocation by increasing randomness or creating 'Expert Benches' to handle cases.

Ultimately, institution has to itself stand test of accountability for increased acceptability and legitimacy.

Remarks

- Q2. The judiciary has been actively encroaching on the powers of legislative and the executive in India, and in doing so, it has been doing a disservice to governance in the country. Explain with appropriate examples. (10 Marks)

Separation of powers was propounded by Montesquieu & Madison to avoid the concentration of power, absolutism & tyranny. But in certain cases, judiciary has been seen encroaching on powers of ~~the~~ Executive and legislature.

- ⊙ SC on a PIL made it compulsory to play national anthem in cinema hall & pushed for guidelines for showing patriotism.
- ⊙ Economically Unresponsive Justice seen delivered when SC ordered closure of Bars & selling alcohol along National Highway that threatened employment and business of people.
- ⊙ Cancellation of coal block allocation in totality transgressed on executive's decisions.

Remarks

⊙ NJAC was struck down as 'unconstitutional', despite having the backing of Parliamentary approval & hence peoples' support on grounds of violating 'basic structure'.

In such case, it appears that SC by Judicial Overreach is violating the fundamentals of governance in country. But some of its observations have even improved Governance.

- Making Guidelines for Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Vishaka's State of Rajasthan 1997)
- Recognising right to privacy inherent in Art 21 (KS Puttaswamy vs UOI 2017)
- Enlarging Right to life to include right to die.
- PUCJ vs UOI, Lily Thomas case, RPA Sec(8) was struck down & MP/MLA to be disqualified on criminal conviction.

Hence, a fine balance needs to be developed in Evolving Interpretation for Social democracy as well as maintenance of Separation of power.

Remarks

Q3. There has been controversy over the Article 35(A) and its legality. In this background, elaborate on Article 35(A) and its implications. (10 Marks)

Article 35(A) has come under scrutiny and its constitutional validity is being challenged in Supreme Court.

Its provisions and other:

- Added by Presidential Order in 1954 to constitution.
- It allows J&K to decide the access to resources of state to people and allows discrimination on certain grounds
- Hence, J&K assembly has passed law that only residents of state can own property and none others will be allowed to purchase land.
- This is considered violative of Article 14, 15 as J&K is an integral part of India and also Art 19 allows freedom to movement and settle.

Remarks

Q5 Implications and beyond:

-) None other than permanent residents are allowed to purchase property. Hence, 'right to settle' is violated.
-) Even refugees from Western Pakistan have not been recognised till date and are deprived of access to state edu inst. and state employment.
-) Women who marry outside J&K lose their right to own property or get employment in J&K state services. This violates their equal status to men in J&K.

Article 35A is being interpolated by SC and judgement is awaited. But a careful approach is required such that the perceived transgression on Kashmiris' rights does not flare up into another anti-state protest agenda in Kashmir.

Remarks

Q4. The actual working of the State Finance Commissions (SFCs) has not been as effective and efficient as the Union Finance Commission. Critically examine. (10 Marks)

Finance Commissions are constitutional bodies entrusted with the function to decide on sharing of resources between Centre & states, devolution from net proceeds and maintain healthy balance of fiscal federalism.

(i) Union Finance Commission ^{Article} (280) _(FC) is constituted regularly and laid in Parliament for scrutiny. Its report (14th FC) were accepted by GOI to increase devolution to states from 32% to 42%.

But similar effectiveness is not observed in State finance commission.

- ⊙ Constitution of state FC is often delayed.
- ⊙ Adequate data is not available regarding allocation and utilisation of resources at local urban and panchayat level.

Remarks

- ⊙ This creates hurdles in proper assessment and timely efficient advice regarding resource sharing.
- ⊙ II ARC also remarks that recommendations of FC regarding devolution of powers of taxation, service delivery are not accepted by state Govt to maintain their monopoly & control over local bodies.
- ⊙ Legislative scrutiny & media coverage of state FCs' report is also lacking.

In order to ensure democratic decentrali-
zation in true sense, State FC must become
active & important stakeholder for devolution
of resources to local bodies.

Remarks

- Q5. Write a short note on the different sessions of Indian Parliament. Why do you think parliamentary disruptions by members of Parliament are on the rise, during last two decades? Examine the causes. (10 Marks)

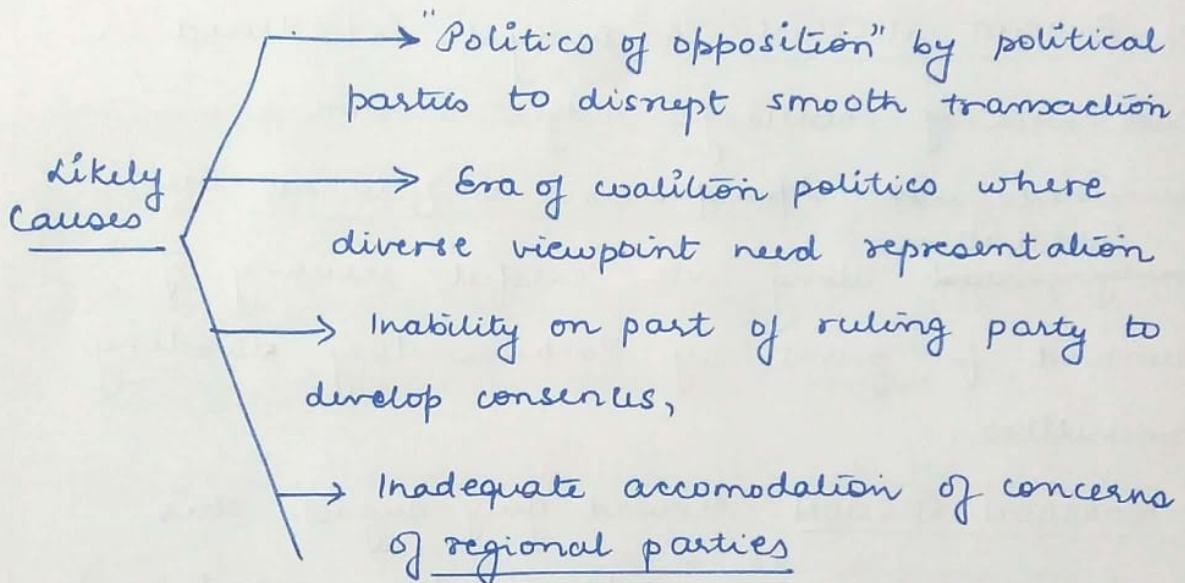
According to Article 85, President summons each ^{not more} ~~house~~ [^] of Parliament and a gap of ~~less~~ than 6 months between 2 sessions can be allowed.

- (i) BUDGET SESSION: As budget introduced in last week of February, budget session is concerned with Appropriation & finance bill ^{introduction} ~~being passed~~ along with careful scrutiny of demand for grants by Parliamentary standing committees.
- (ii) MONSOON SESSION: Around July-August, this session may pass any supplementary govt and other imp. bills like recently passed amendment to SCST ~~act~~ ^{bill}, Sports Uni bill, ~~Trafficking~~ (Prevention) Bill etc.
- (iii) WINTER SESSION: Around Nov-Dec, this session at end of year ensures legislative business pending in house to be completed before further new economic year begins.

Remarks

Disruptions in Parliament:

- o) In 1950s, 130 days/yr was the Parliamentary productivity which has reduced to 60-70 days sitting per year.
- o) Budget discussion timings have also decreased, and bills are ~~are~~ seldom sent to Committees for ~~the~~ review/scrutiny



Multiparty meetings must carefully assess the situation, take action against disrupting MPs while also accomodate diverse view points and allow debates to ensure that law making is carefully done for benefit of people in long run.

Remarks

- Q6. There have been divergent views over creating an All India Judicial Services (AIJS), while Centre and the Supreme Court is favoring AIJS, several States and High Courts are in opposition to it. In this context critically, examine the creation of AIJS. (10 Marks)

All India judicial service is being proposed to fill the posts at the level of subordinate judiciary through a standardised exam based on merit.

* Merits of AIJS (as argued by Centre/ SC)

- o) Transparency in selection process would enhance accountability of lower judiciary.
- o) Award of merit will be ensured and foul play / corruption can be checked.
- o) Standard parameters, qualification can ensure that judicial talent is recognised and can avail better opportunities for competent promotion.
- o) AIJS can attract budding intellectual talent, improve the image of judiciary and trust in selection process.

Remarks

* Demerits of AIJS (as argued by State/ HC)

- 1.) States' stay in selection process will be diluted and this will pave way for greater control by centre.
- 2.) Customisation based on different states, their specific laws/rules is required, hence standard exam will not serve the purpose.
- 3.) Parameters like Integrity, quality of judgements and non partisanship can only be judged in due course of experience subjectively, hence HCs' control is relevant and crucial for selection/promotion.

Civil

Like All India ^{Civil} Services, Constitution permits creation of AIJS also by Rajya Sabha's concurrence. Hence, proper consensus must evolve between states & within judiciary for a non-partisan and competitive AIJS selection process which must incorporate ~~provision~~ adequate opinion of state & HC.

Remarks

Q7. Recently, issue of Parliamentary Secretaries occupying office of profit has been the bone of contention between Centre and Delhi Government. In this context, elaborate on concept of Parliamentary Secretaries and Office of Profit. Also, discuss the ruling of Supreme Court over determining office of profit. (10 Marks)

Recently, appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries by Delhi Govt was struck down by Election Commission, hence members were disqualified by President; they were reinstated by Delhi HC on account of procedural inadequacies / violation of natural justice by EC.

(i) Parliamentary Secretaries are like assistant to ministers to assist them with decision making and work of ministries.

(ii) They have access to crucial inside info and hence this office constitutes Office of Profit as it can lead to a pecuniary gain.

(iii) They are not "ministers" per se as they exceed the 15% limit prescribed in Article 75 & 164, (10% in case of Delhi) over the no. of ministers out of elected MP / MLAs.

Remarks

SC in Swapan Roy vs Pradyut Boodoi case (2001) laid down markers of office of profit which (OOP) has not been mentioned in Constitution -

- (a) ~~Is~~ Is the post a Govt appointment?
- (b) ^{Whether} Remuneration is provided by Govt?
- (c) Whether office is being controlled by Govt in matter of promotion, dismissal.
- (d) Whether access to Govt info is there.

Again in Jaya Bachchan case, SC held that OOP is considered not only in pecuniary gain made actually but also when office is capable of yielding a pecuniary gain.

Hence, ^{though} parliamentary secretaries are appointed to accommodate ~~a~~ more & more MIA's and for quid pro quo, it must not breach constitutional limits even if done for administrative convenience.

Remarks

- Q8. Role of Quasi-Judicial bodies has become very significant in cost-effective speedy adjudication in India. Whether their practice can be considered as breach of the concept of separation of powers enshrined under the Directives of the Indian Constitution? Give justification to your argument. (10 Marks)

Quasi judicial Bodies or Tribunals have become cost effective for speedy adjudication of justice in specialised areas like Income tax, Corporate law, Environmental law etc.

Concerns:

-) Parliamentary Committee under BS Chauhan remarked that these are appointed by Executive directly, ~~and hence~~ hence, CJI, be involved in appointment
-) As govt. is a litigant in most cases, partiality may creep in as govt is an imp. player in appointing judges.
-) Quasi judicial bodies ~~that~~ can have a Govt influence but they cannot be considered as "breach of concept of separation of powers". As,

Remarks

① Quasi judicial bodies are appointed world over to accelerate decision making, bring efficiency by expertise etc.

② SC in L. Chandra Kumar vs UOI case held that Quasi judicial bodies like Tribunals can be "Supplemental" to HC/SC ~~jurisdiction~~ jurisdiction; if not substitutive, Hence, this constitutionality is upheld.

Adequate safeguards can be put for min. govt interference.

Eg. Uniformity in service conditions for chairman of Quasi judicial bodies Eg max. age as 70 yrs

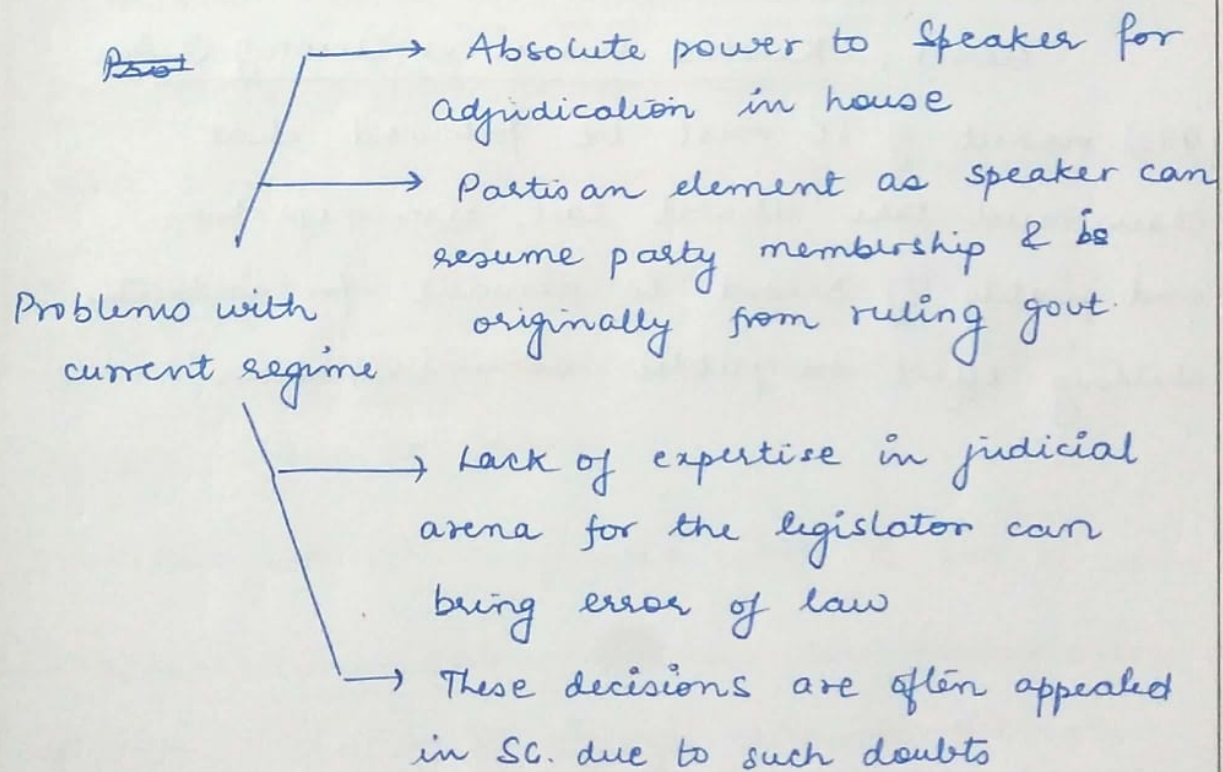
• Reappointment be an exception and not a rule.

• Cooling off period for judges post retirement.

Remarks

- Q9. It has often been recommended that the adjudicatory power under the anti-defection law be transferred to an independent body to remove the existing partisan element. How far do you agree that such a step would strengthen the functioning of the law? (10 Marks)

Currently, the adjudicatory power under anti-defection law as mentioned in X schedule is under Speaker for Lok Sabha and Chairman of Rajya Sabha for Article 102, 191 concerning disqualification; under anti-defection law 1985.



Remarks

If Independent body is formed :-

- o) Allegations of Partisanship can be curbed.
- o) Greater trust & transparency can be ensured.

But all problems will not be addressed

- o) Delay in decision making can be there due to consensus building measures
- o) That body if single member is again open to influence
- o) Decisions may still be appealed in HC/SC.

Hence; Keishna Swami vs Union of India

(1992) verdict of SC must be followed that Chair must take utmost care, circumspection and quality of record to account for indelible chilling effect on public administration.

Remarks

Q10. Do you believe that longer lives have translated into healthier lives in India and the world? Examine. (10 Marks)

Life Expectancy is on the rise in both India and World as from 32 yrs in 1950, risen to 68 yrs in 2017. in India.

- (i) Cases of Epidemics and Pandemics like famine, chicken pox and other ~~communicable~~ diseases are falling.
- (ii) Greater health care opportunities, vaccination sanitation & cleanliness awareness is also bringing communicable cases down.
- (iii) longer lives ensures proper utilisation of persons' capacity, stable families and Better living Rights to people.

But we are confronted with a lot of issues
→ Non-communicable diseases like hypertension, diabetes, cancer & lifestyle ailments are on rise.

Remarks

- Genetic diseases, geriatric ailments are being identified which create burden on families and handicap the sufferers.
- Other diseases like Ebola Virus, Nipah virus, Zika Virus etc are spreading deadly conditions now
- Burden of aged population on countries is increasing weight of dependent pop. on working creating economic & social issues

Hence longer lives have not necessarily meant healthier lives, so we need to improve insurance penetration, better health research and care facilities for elders / senior citizens.

Remarks

Q11. Ayushman Bharat is a turning point for the health sector. Critically analyze the significance and shortcomings of this initiative by India. (10 Marks)

Ayushman Bharat or the National Health Protection Scheme is being touted as the largest insurance based healthcare scheme in world.

Significance

- 1) It covers vulnerable & below poverty line population of 10 cr families assessed by SECC
- 2) It provides healthcare opportunities to marginalised, right to life and dignified existence with 5 lakh cover per year.
- 3) It can reduce massive 67% Out of pocket expenditure by Indians on healthcare that pushes families in abject poverty.
- 4) Modern Pvt hospitals are partners & both Insurance / trust based model can be adopted by states which gives flexibility. & allows Pvt participation in reaching "Healthy Goals".
- 5) Health & Wellness centre can help achieve preventive healthcare & early detection of diseases

Remarks

Shortcomings:

-) Pvt hospitals are reluctant to provide services at rates set by Govt as they find it inadequate.
-) "Privatisation of healthcare" can lead to further deterioration of public health care institution
-) Hardships of patients can increase if certain services are brought in "negative list".
-) Inadequate Infrastructure, medical equipment, medical staff - doctors/nurses can affect service delivery in remote places.

These loopholes must be bridged with greater flexibility for state, proper training of staff, adequate funds, along with monitoring, evaluation & surveillance of scheme

Remarks

Q12. Land reforms in India have neither been beneficial in increasing the production of farms nor in setting up new industrial units. Comment. Also, evaluate the need for repealing the existing land ceiling laws. (10 Marks)

Land Reforms in India aimed at delivering land to the tiller, eliminating middlemen, consolidation of fragmented landholdings and applying ceiling limits.

- > Proper implementation has not occurred as only West Bengal, Kerala have ~~any~~ imposed ceiling limits.
- > Consolidation has not been proper, only few states have taken lead as even today avg. landholding is < 2 ha. size.
- > Small size lands have poor production capacity, marginal farmers can hardly make investments on land & are "subsistence farmers"
- > land acquisition is a burning issue & industrial units ~~a~~ have also not benefitted properly.

Remarks

Demands are raised for repealing land ceiling laws :-

- 1) But this would be against 'Social justice' and further deepen glaring inequalities in land holding size.
- 2) Concentration of landholding will be concentration of power in few hands.

Way forward.

- 1) Land leasing can be done (Model law by Niti Aayog) to ensure rights of tenants & proper productivity.
- 2) Contract farming in partnership with food processing industries can yield benefits
- 3) "MOVE OUT & MOVE UP APPROACH" by World Bank to encourage reduction in disguised employment, mechanisation of farms, consolidation and community farming.

Remarks

Q13. Conventional wisdom suggests that industrialization and urbanization go hand in hand. Do you think this applies to India as well? Evaluate the concept of hidden urbanization in this context? (10 Marks)

Industrialisation is the advent of machine made manufacturing industries, based on scientific dept and the consequent rise in urban areas expansion; which includes new employment opportunities, modern housing and mobility.

⊙ In India, urbanisation has been on rise with currently 34% population residing in urban areas (WB data).

⊙ But majority population ~ 48% is involved in agriculture and most economic output is from the service industry ~ (51%).

⊙ "Industries" in conventional sense are slow to expand and hence Informal employment in form of self employed & others is the massive share ~ 91% workforce.

Remarks

This has given rise to Hidden Urbanisation.

→ Expansion of urban agglomeration, satellite towns and transitional areas.

→ 'Rurbanisation' is also occurring as the urban practices, technology, mobility options, roads, infrastructure are connecting villages.

→ Slums are expanding in cities due to extensive migration, squatters

→ Even high rise buildings are hosting the population inflow in cities nowadays.

Remarks

Q14. The multiplicity of labour laws and difficulty in coping with them are an impediment to industrial development in India. Critically examine. What are the labour reform measures initiated by the government for ensuring compliance and promoting ease of doing business. (10 Marks)

Labour law multiplicity has led to roadblocks in industrial development due to ~~its~~ poor capacity of factories to expand in a cost effective manner & high cost of burden.

⊙ This results in "Casualisation" of labour or Contract labour -

↳ Conditions of social security is not provided to labour putting their life/health at risk.

↳ Specially women are more vulnerable & have to either drop out of workforce or ~~and~~ continue in intolerable conditions.

⊙ High compliance burden leads to "Peter Pan Syndrome" where ^{small} industries continue to have poor productivity to avoid burden or Govt interference. eg MSME sector in India.

Remarks

⊙ Lack of hire/fire capacity prevents FDI ~~or~~ & industrial labour intensive expansion, hence industries prefer capital intensive measures which further threatens employment.

⊙ Improvements for Ease of doing Business :-

·) Boiling down multiple labour laws in 4 Codes of labour on wages, social protection, industrial safety & negotiation etc.

·) Fixed term Employment in textile sector, Apparel and other labour intensive.

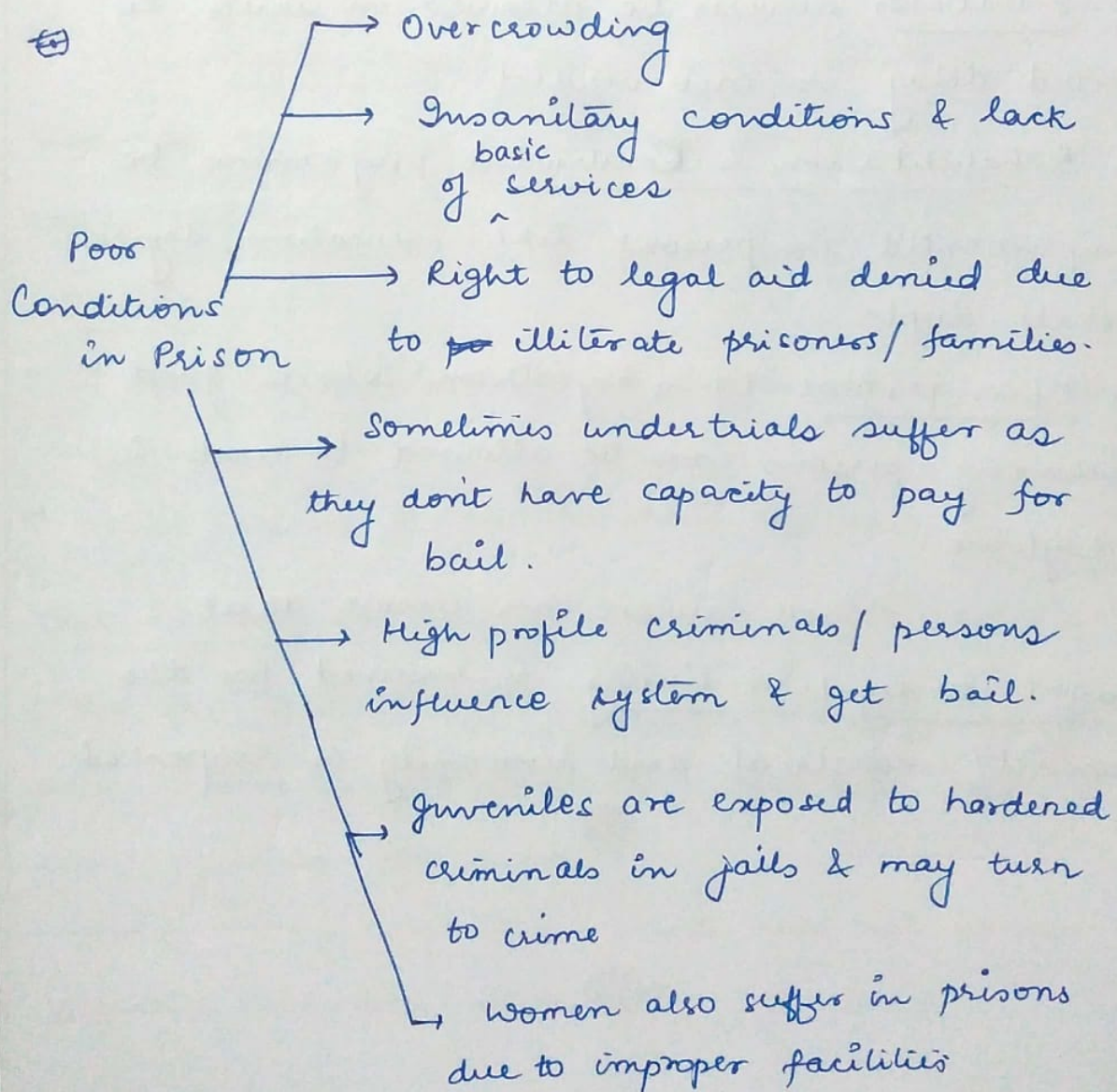
·) Social Security Code with floor wages for all workers at national level. (min)

·) Single window clearance & Online transactions, E-Services prevent Inspector Raj,

Remarks

Q15. The State is obliged to protect the residuary rights of prisoners after they surrender their liberty to a legal process. But, lakhs of under-trials languishing in India's overcrowded prisons make it to be a difficult task. In light of this, discuss the reforms? (10 Marks)

Prison occupancy in India is at a massive 114%. with ~~about~~ more than 70% prisoners as undertrials.



Remarks

Reforms :

- (*) Proper Case Management at judicial / Police level to ensure speedy justice delivery.
- (*) Information / Education to undertrials' family for opportunities in legal paradigm.
- (*) E-witness services be allowed in courts to avoid delay in case verdict.
- (*) Rehabilitation & Constructive programmes be implemented in prisons like Education, degree, skill dept.
- (*) Open prisons Eg in Rajasthan where good behaving persons can be allowed to work in daytime.

Such services can ensure that right to dignified living is ensured for the convict / undertrial and humanity is respected.

Remarks

Q16. Is death penalty, a solution for dealing with child sexual abuse cases? Do you agree?
Elaborate the issues in tackling this problem effectively along with the measures needed further. (10 Marks)

According to Ministry of Women & Child Employment, 51-53% children in India have experienced some kind of child sexual abuse in India.

Death Penalty was recently mooted in a criminal law amendment for convicts of raping children below 12yrs.

Can it help?

-) It can be a deterrent as death penalty is the ultimate punishment.
-) Social pressure is also mounted by this.

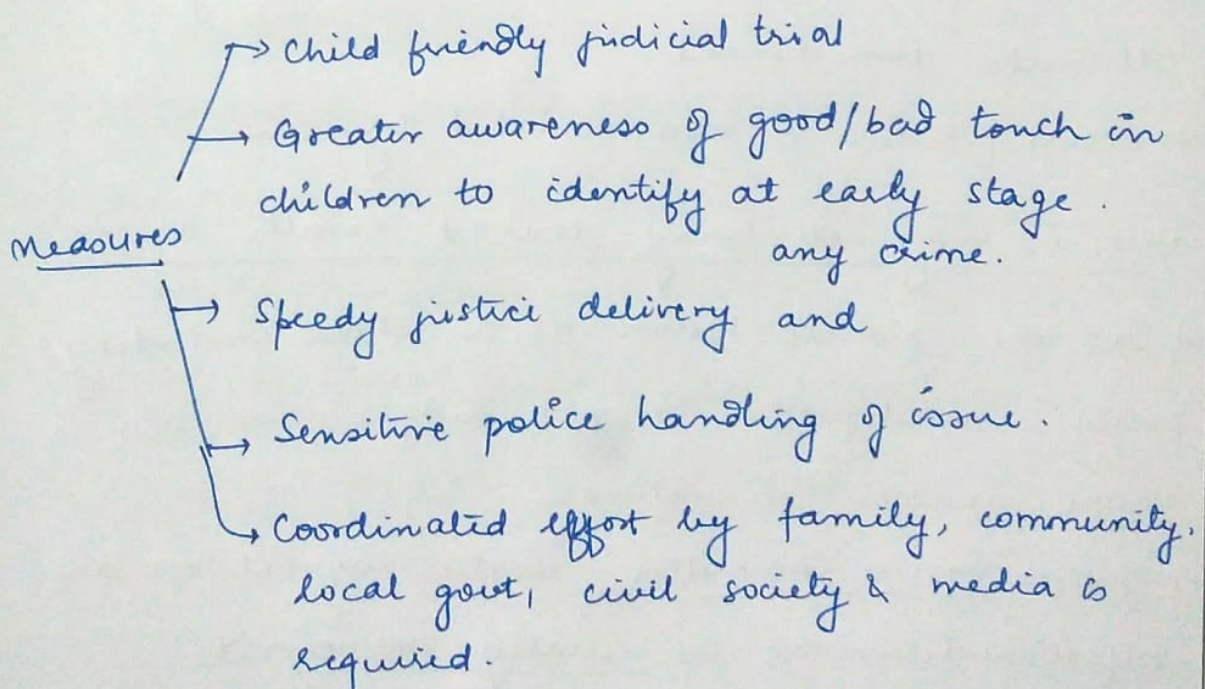
But it may not bring desired results as:-

-) Its the judicial system as a whole including police, investigators, lawyers, judges who can ensure justice for victims.
-) Justice Varma Committee - death may not be an effective 'deterrent' as usually perceived.

Remarks

Deeper issues involved:

- (*) Perpetrator is often a family member, hence reporting of child sex abuse case see a dip.
- (*) Conviction rate under POCSO Act 2013 is a mere 3% showing inefficacy of law.
- (*) Judicial trials for death pronouncement may prolong & extend harassment of victims for many years.
- (*) It's also not child friendly to ensure repeated testimony by child, which such cases require



Remarks

Q17. The rise of protectionist regime in USA created the challenges for the Indian IT services industry. However, development of new technologies opens new opportunities for the IT services industry. Comment Also, suggest ways to overcome these challenges.
(10 Marks)

Indian IT experts have been manning the Software - Silicon Valley in USA by their services in top Corporations & Startups.

But protectionist regime and consequent visa regime threatens this opportunity for employment as USA tightens grip on the "level of expertise" allowed in USA for immigration.

New opportunities :

- 1) New technology like Artificial Intelligence & Big data analytics are "gateways for tomorrow" in Software/IT industry.
- 2) Training in these sectors can ensure that new expertise can be created and are required by US companies.
- 3) IT employees can develop their own "Google" & social networking sites which are Indian in origin (like china has done)

Remarks

Ways to Overcome:

- (i) Skill depts, Research funding in modern science dept and Expertise building with a Global, oriented approach
- (ii) Developing conducive ecosystem in India for Start ups, entrepreneurship etc. by better funding, initial support (Venture capital funds), Sandbox approach etc.
- (iii) Adequate support to new graduates like PMRF, fellowship, in Industry collaboration, internship etc.

These can ensure that India develops into a [KITE Economy]- Knowledge & IT based and Entrepreneurially driven Economy.

Remarks

Q18. "The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is not only a step towards combating climate change, but also an important tool in India's foreign policy." Elaborate. (10 Marks)

International Solar Alliance is the first such Global partnership led by India that will further Climate justice, better Energy utilisation and also pitch India as the flagbearer of alternative world order.

- o) "Common Risk Mitigation" approach allows collaboration of countries across tropics.
- o) Research in solar energy will get a boost & new technology in energy storage can be devised.
- o) Expertise of European countries, like France, UK as also of Japan can be leveraged in this.
- o) Energy needs of Afro-Asian & Latin American countries can be fulfilled in a climate neutral manner.

Remarks

As a tool for foreign policy

-) Collaboration with tropical Asian, African and American countries ensures South-South cooperation of developing world.
-) Climate leadership, with shared ideas ensures greater participation & democratic rules based order, contrary to Chinese hegemonic approach.
-) ISA showcases our effort towards clean energy transition & allows greater investment in green bonds, techno-transfer by developed countries.

Hence ISA is a ~~strategic~~ well thought out strategic tool that can be utilised for dual benefit of climate risk mitigation & global stakeholderhip.

Remarks

Q19. What do you mean by Singapore issues in the WTO? Why Singapore issues have proven to be an obstacle in concluding the Doha Round of WTO negotiations? (10 Marks)

Remarks

Q20. Being a member of the Quad - a concord of four democracies - has many potential advantages that India could adroitly exploit. In this context discuss the strategic and economic benefits which India could gain from being the member of Quad. (10 Marks)

Quad - projected as the alternate partnership of world democracies in times of turmoil, threat over free movement in open seas and rule based order has many potential advantages.

Strategic Benefits:

-) Strong message to China for maintaining the world order based on International rules of free movement in South China Sea.
-) Projects India as a strong leader in Asian region and a stakeholder in global world order and peace.
-) Allows partnership with developed economies of USA, Japan and Australia will deepen negotiation on shared development vision

Remarks

Economic benefits:

- 1) Free trade when ensured can ensure greater trade with these countries.
- 2) Technology expertise in sectors like defence, energy requirement like nuclear, shale oil can get a boost.
- 3) Deepening cooperation can encourage FDI & FII in Indian economy
- 4) Small groupings can lead to favourable terms of trade with these countries.

Hence, Quad can prove to be a crucial strategic initiative to rejuvenate Indian primacy and importance as Emerging Economy and on Regional leadership.

Remarks

Q21. India diplomacy can be considered successful in handling the Israel and Palestine relations. Comment, also, discuss India's stand on Israel-Palestine Conflict. (10 Marks)

Recent back to back engagements with both Israel and Palestine have indicated a mature & independent foreign policy stance on India's part.

→ Indo-Israel relations deepening in agricultural cooperation, technology transfer for micro irrigation, desalination

→ defence partnership, co-development of BrahMos and other missile systems. indicates greater trust.

→ India voted against a resolution for sanction against Israel recently, showing a mature position with firmness.

But when Jerusalem was unilaterally declared as capital by USA of Israel, India remarked that it believes in a consensus based decision inclusive of Palestine.

Remarks

② India has shown earnestness to support skill dept, education in Palestine, contributed to fund of refugees also. (UNHCR)

This "De-Hyphenation" of policy approach with regard to Israel-Palestine has ensured pursuit of our own interests in the region

(*) India believes in the resolution of conflict based on discussion & negotiation between both parties.

(*) Peace Resolution of dispute aided by International support.

(*) Stability of West Asian region is in our larger interest of energy security & stability of defence also.

Remarks

Q22. A great game is unfolding in resource-rich, but landlocked Central Asian region, among China and India. In this context, discuss the significance of Central Asia for both India and China. Also, elaborate on Indian efforts towards "Connect Central Asia Policy".
(10 Marks)

Central Asian region comprising of resource rich countries is witnessing a Great Game between India-China.

These countries hold immense significance due to strategic location & other benefits.



→ Significance for China & India

→ China shares territorial boundaries with these countries

→ Security issues like radicalism in Uighur province of China concerns with Central Asia.

→ Central Asia is a huge market for not only cheap Chinese industrial goods but also Indian pharma sector, engg goods, IT exports etc

Remarks

- Huge reserves of nuclear energy are found in these countries Eg Uranium, crucial for Indian energy needs.
- Strategic gateway to European market and development base. for India.
- Chinese Belt & Road Initiative has crucial routes from there.

Connect Central Asian Efforts:

- (o) INSTC - North South Corridor with Iran can increase trade opportunities.
- (o) Ashgabat Agreement accession will also further enhance our inroads. in Central Asia.
- (o) Chabahar Port alongway Afghanistan.
- (o) Shanghai Cooperation Agreement will deepen security & economic ties.
- (o) Soft power initiatives, historical links with Uzbekistan, "Buddha diplomacy" can help.

Remarks

Q23. Discuss merits and demerits of India's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Africa's hydrocarbon sector.
(10 Marks)

Indian FDI in Africa's hydrocarbon sector has been increasing. by ONGC-VL, overseas acquisition etc.

Merits :

- o) Diversification of Indian Energy sources can reduce burden of Middle East dependence.
- o) Ensure Energy security in longer run and refining capacity of India can ~~ensure~~ enhance petroleum goods exports.
- o) Develop linkages with Africa in trade & economic ways ensure deeper cooperation and strategic alignment

Demerits :

- o) Massive investment is required and capital outflow can harm economic fundamentals.

Remarks

-) Similar investments in exploration & extraction from Indian resources can be a better option for enhancing self reliance.
-) Hydro carbon investment will increase our carbon footprint & goes against spirit of Renewable Energy cooperation with Africa.
Eg Intl Solar Alliance.
-) Resource extraction of Africa can seem to be unwise "colonial" idea of trade unless we also help Africa in capacity building.
-) Political turmoil, Eg in Sudan, Ethiopia, civil movements, strife, instability in other region, radicalisation can threaten our Energy Security.

Remarks

Q24. Trace the evolution of India's Foreign Policy since independence. Do you see a paradigm shift in this evolution? (10 Marks)

India's foreign policy has seen a metamorphosis based on the changing world order and India's stature in global arena.

-) Initially after Independence, Nehru pursued policy of Non Alignment rigorously -
 - Exigencies of Cold War demanded this.
 - It ensured that a nascent nation could avoid colonial throwback and ensure
 - supply of required resources.
-) Panchsheel Agreement with China, non-aggression and non interference in domestic affairs was a good starter.
-) But hold towards "Idealism" pushed India's limits & led to Indo-China War.
-) India avoided relation with Myanmar due to its insistence on democracy, intervention in Sri Lanka in 1985. for Tamils.

Remarks

India has now shifted towards policy of Realism and pursuing its own interest, while fine diplomatic balancing between big powers.

- > India cooperates with USA on defence, trade & in Quad, while with Russia on nuclear, defence and in Shanghai Cooperation Org.
- > Dehypenation in Israel Palestine relations is a new change to pursue our interests & also back stability.
- > Personalised diplomacy, in Wuhan with China & Sochi with Russia along with Summit Diplomacy.
- > Cooperation with Africa - India Summit & Asia-Africa Growth corridor with Japan.
- > Act East policy & ASEAN India partnerships for open seas & BIMSTEC cooperation on trade & technology with neighbours opens new opportunities.

Remarks

Q25. World Bank as a multilateral financial institution has lost its credibility because its quota and voting system has not kept pace with the changing realities of 1990s onwards? Explain. (10 Marks)

Remarks