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RANK - 14

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
MOCK - 1, PAPER II
TEST - 9**



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(120)

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**Time Allowed: 3 hrs.****Max. Marks: 250*****Instructions to Candidate***

- There are EIGHT question divided in Two Sections.
- Candidate has to attempt FIVE questions in all
- Question No. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, three are to be attempted choosing at least one question from each section.
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
- Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
- Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.
- Attempts of questions shall be counted in chronological order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer booklet must be clearly struck off.

Name Karishma Nair

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature Knair1. *Invigilator's Signature* _____2. *Invigilator's Signature* _____

REMARKS**GS SCORE**

SECTION-A

Attempt all questions:

1. Comment on the following into 150 words: $(10 \times 5 = 50)$

- (a) "The blame for poor public sector performance can be laid on the way our bureaucracy is structured". Comment.
- (b) Civil Service Neutrality is the bedrock for efficient administration. Comment.
- (c) Central Secretariat is the nodal agency for administering the Union subjects and establishing coordination among the various activities of the government. Discuss.
- (d) The value premise of Indian Constitution was greatly inspired from the western notion of Liberal democracy. Comment.
- (e) Ethics formed the core of Kautilya's Arthashastra. Critically analyse.

1.(a) Public sector performance has been poor in India due to the clash between autonomy and accountability that has weighed down because of the bureaucratic interference.

The hierarchical organisation of our bureaucracy is followed in some public sector enterprises like departmental undertakings, public corporations, etc.

poor structure of bureaucracy

(4)

Bureaucrats are assigned in such organisations instead of domain specialists. This causes poor performance because:

- ① Lack of expert decision-making.
- ② Interference in appointments, expansion, etc. by the govt.

Remarks

- ③ Nepotism & other forms of corruption by bureaucracy.
- ④ Promotion based on sycophancy & incompetence according to Peter's Principle.
- ⑤ Budget maximising tendency leads to poor resource use efficiency.
- ⑥ The structure of hierarchy leads to delay in decision-making.

However, this cannot be taken for a rule as corporations like ONGC have been successful. Further losses can also be because of:

- ① Political interference
- ② Poor global market conditions
- ③ Rise in private player competition.

Thus, while bureaucracy plays a role in poor performance of public sector, there are many other causes attributable for the same.

(b) Civil Services Neutrality entails a civil service that is not aligned to any political ideologies and undertakes duty based on objectivity, and non-partisanship.

It becomes vital for an efficient administration because:

- ① Leads to more trust of political executive on advice of civil services. ~~Good~~ 8/11
- ② Decision-making will be purely evidence-based
- ③ Civil services can function freely without being used as political pawns.
- ④ Public will have more trust on a neutral civil service, thus citizen engagement will receive a boost
- ⑤ Work culture & colleague relations within civil services will enhance due to collective neutrality.

~~Paul~~ Appleby had warned against political neutrality being misinterpreted as policy neutrality which will lead to a ~~more~~ poorly passionate bureaucracy. for Development Administration especially, a committed

Remarks

bureaucracy acts as a boon with commitment being towards policy & neutrality towards politics.

- (C) Central Secretariat is the facilitating framework of departments, ~~and~~ their administrative heads, subordinate and attached offices. It acts as a coordinating mechanism for the Union Govt.; because all the subjects falling under its ambit is assigned to a department/ministry and administrator.

The ~~Central~~ Central Secretariat administers these subjects by:

- ① formulating subject specific legislations and policy.
- ② formulation of budget for the subjects.
- ③ Stakeholder outreach regarding the Subject-
eg. Ministry of Agriculture with farmer Organisations and Agricultural universities.
- ④ Monitoring the respective sector and undertaking Think Tank functions for the sector

Remarks

~~Topic~~ The secretariat establishes coordination amongst various activities of govt as:

- ① All activities undertaken under single roof.
 - ② Coordination framework established amongst various heads. 5/12
 eg. Min. of Agriculture and Min. of Rural Development.
~~W/o~~ eg. Recently Min. of finance & Min. of Home Affairs undertook talks for tackling Money laundering
 - ③ The political heads of departments are part of the same govt with collective responsibility.
- Thus, the central Secretariat acts as the fountainhead for governmental activities, traversing a long way from its conception by Gopalswami Aiyangar.

(d) The Indian Constitution was envisioned as a guiding light for the overall development of its citizens. For fulfilling such an objective, it was formulated by studying many other constitutions and democracies.

A look at the Preamble and its concepts of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity reminds us

of the liberal values emerged from French Revolution. <sup>Mention we got自由平等
our first law etc</sup>

4

Concepts of having an elected head of state (Republic) was also prevalent in the West.

However, there are many concepts of values in the Indian Constitution that was not directly lifted from the West.

The concept of Justice in the form of reservations for down trodden was due to the unique problem of untouchability in India.

India went for Universal Adult franchise from

Remarks

its very conception while many western democracies did not extend such rights to women, poor, etc. for many years.

We also took inspiration from countries like South Africa for their values against discrimination which was clearly not a Western concept.

Thus liberal democracy and its values were enshrined in India through many sources, a prominent one being the western notion.

(e) Kautilya's Arthashastra can be viewed as a book of ethics on close examination 3

- ① Enshrined the principle of welfare state and benevolence.
- ② It was against the arbitrary abuse of power even by the King (In the welfare of his people, lies his welfare) for no one
- ③ It ensured that recruitment was based on merit & fairness against nepotisms, etc.

Remarks

- ④ It created certain ethical texts for govt employees eg. Dhammapada, Arthapada, Kamapada, Bhayapada
- ⑤ State should look after family of deceased employee. However, certain aspects of the treatise has been seen as unethical as well:
- ① Use of spies, trickery to gain land, resources
 - ② King's son was taught to conspire against the king
 - ③ Use of foreign relations for personal gain (Ari kshetram & Viji kshetram) against principle of Ethics in I.R.

Thus, even though there are a few practical examples that are ethical, the core principle of Arthashastra rides on ethics.

2. Answer the following questions:

(a) Answer the following:

(i) "Co-operative federalism is the life blood of harmonious centre-state relations". Suggest recent measures to strengthen the same. (150 Words) (15)

(ii) State Legislatures have been degenerated from being institutions of state governance to political bickering and infighting. Comment in light of recent events. (150 Words) (15)

(b) Office of the "District Collector" is a legacy of "The Raj". It is unsuitable for a modern State, especially in the 21st century. Discuss. (250 Words) (20)

(a) (i) Cooperative federalism entails healthy mutual relations between centre and states, and amongst the states. It includes the principles of support, complementarity, trust, etc.

The spirit of cooperative federalism is such that federalism is not a zero-sum game or pareto-optimal where gains for the centre should be accompanied by loss for the states.

The methods that can be followed for enhancing cooperative federalism are: ~~every word out~~ (9)

(1) forming a common platform for dialogue.

(2) Enhancing confidence building measures.

(3) Collaboration of state and central machinery

for service delivery.

Remarks

- ④ Convergence of state & central schemes for area development.

The Sarkaria Commission's Recommendation of Inter State Council was the beginning of Cooperative federalism in India. It acts as a common platform to address issues ^{and} solve problems.

Recent measures to strengthen cooperative federalism

- ① Setting up of Niti Ayog by abolishing the Planning Commission which was viewed as being against spirit of federalism.
- ② 14th FC's recommendation of increased devolution of funds (42%) to states.
- ③ Removing the concept of providing special category status to states, such that there is more fairness & equity in horizontal distribution.
- ④ The Governing Council and Regional Council meetings of Niti Ayog take forward the spirit.

Remarks

- ⑤ GST Council with equitable voting share for states. Most decisions in the council are taken by consensus such that cooperative federalism triumphs.
- ⑥ The recent criticism against National Medical Council's composition was overcome by providing more representation to states.
- ⑦ Zonal Councils meets to have healthy state relations that is vital for healthy centre-state relations.
- ⑧ Committees under Chief Ministers are set up to analyse questions that affect people of the state.
- ⑨ HRD ministry's Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat to enhance spirit of unity & federalism in children as well.
- The spirit of cooperative federalism must also percolate down to local levels so that sub-federalism can be used to strengthen Union - State - Local relations.

(ii) State legislatures were envisioned as being the expression of parliamentary democracy at the level of States. However, the recent incidents in Karnataka, Goa, Sikkim, etc. raise serious questions about the state of these legislatures.

Objectives of State legislatures

- Legislate on subjects in state list.
- Debate & discuss state & local issues.
- Build consensus on demands, interactions with centre.
- Hold the state governments accountable.
- Its voices to be heard through the Rajya Sabha.

However, with time, political considerations bickering & fighting has maligned this pious institution:

- ② Criminalisation & nepotism is on the rise in SLs
- ① Rise in coalitions and clout of regional parties, leading to divisions according to party lines in state legislature.

Remarks

- ② Misuse of anti-defection law by state legislators by more than 2/3rd split. e.g. Goa and Sikkim to align with central party in power.
- ③ Discussions are more on nationalist political agendas rather than local aspirations.
- ④ Lack of decorum in the legislatures.
e.g. MLAs being caught watching illicit videos.
- ⑤ Usage of violence, ruckus, etc. as a means to attract attention of the presiding officers.
- ⑥ Questions raised about non-partisanship of Speaker's actions in legislatures.
e.g. case of Karnataka.

(9)

- ⑦ Discussions on reports of CAG, finance commission, etc. is ~~not~~ undertaken.
- In this deteriorating scenario, a few recommendations could be:
- ① formulate code of ethics for legislature.
 - ② form upper House in states to give representation to ULBs (2nd ARC 6th Report)
 - ③ Review the efficacy of anti-defection law and the role of the speaker.

The degeneration of state legislatures can be reversed by political will & awareness amongst electorates regarding politics.

Remarks

2.(b) The Office of the District Collector was instituted by Warren Hastings, thus it is definitely a colonial system that was further adopted by independent India.

It has undergone many changes, while the core remains to have a one-stop center at every district to streamline the regulatory functions of the Centre and State.

The office might have originated in colonial era, but it has shed many of its colonial traits and thus can no longer be viewed as a legacy of the Raj.

- ① Article 50 of the Indian Constitution clearly separated judicial & executive functions, thus, role of district collector changed from wielding utmost supremacy and unchecked authority in the district.
- ② The district collector's office became the conduit for all developmental.

Remarks

functions. It was a paradigm shift wherein interaction with beneficiaries increased, development orientation instilled, etc.

- (3) With the advent of highly technical activities, many extension functionaries entered the landscape of district administration, and the Office soon became a coordinating mechanism for all such activities. Focus as word, Discuss Govt. designate function, serve, may not satisfy, not simple rather a modified or evolved

(4) With the rise in political parties, representatives and Panchayati Raj Institutions, the Office of District Collector is witnessing a share in its functioning, where people now have many avenues of grievance redressal. The Office of District Collector, is thus no longer purely a Raj legacy but has created a unique identity for itself over the years.

Its vitality remains even in the ~~of~~ modern State of the 21st Century because:

- ① Acts as a lynchpin between Centre, State & local govt.

- ② Is a well developed office to undertake collection & regulatory functions
- ③ Acts as the crisis manager at the local level.
- ④ Has several miscellaneous functions related to Census, Elections, etc.
- ⑤ Receives dignitaries in the districts.
- ⑥ Effective implementation of policies.
- ⑦ Law & Order functions with coordination with SP.

The relevance of this Office has not diminished, rather it has become overworked.

The 2nd ARC considered the suitability of district as the 3rd tier of governance, and has called for proper role classification of district collector, retaining regulatory work, directing development work to other suitable entities.

Thus the Office of District Collector has stood the test of time to become the most important adoption of British administration that further underwent relevant adaptation.

Remarks

3. Answer the following questions:

- (a) The effectiveness and efficiency in PSUs hinge on the balance between autonomy and accountability. Analyse. (250 Words) (20)
- (b) District level planning is highly non-uniform and disparate on a state vs state basis. Explain. (250 Words) (20)
- (c) Single party dominance is here to stay after its comeback. Contrast it with the coalition era. (100 Words) (10)

Remarks

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Remarks

4. Answer the following questions:

- (a) 'As the local bodies gain more prominence in the realm of development administration, the role of the District Collector should be limited to regulatory functions'. Discuss. (250 Words) (20)
- (b) "The headquarters-field relationship is fraught with complexities. To arrive at a general principle, thus, is nearly impossible. Therefore, this should be more of a practitioner's domain rather than of academician's". Comment. (250 Words) (20)
- (c) NITI Aayog brings a semblance to the federal nature of Indian Polity. Comment. (100 Words) (10)

Remarks

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Remarks

SECTION-B

Attempt all questions:

5. Comment on the following into 150 words: (10 × 5 = 50)

- (a) "The rule of a King depends primarily on written orders". Why did Kautilya favour codification of laws?
- (b) Budget in reality is a political instrument not an economic one. Comment.
- (c) Indian federalism is moving towards cooperative, competitive and fiscal federalism. Comment.
- (d) NGOs are mushrooming and taking over development activities due to decline in government legitimacy. Comment.
- (e) Law and order faces twin challenges, criminalization of politics and politicization of criminals. Comment.

5.(a) Arthashastra calls for codification of laws.

Kautilya laid emphasis on written orders and codification to prevent the abuse of power and arbitrary use of power.

Codification of laws will lead to ^{Kautilya} ~~writ private~~ justice to people involved.

- ① Awareness amongst people about the laws.
- ② Inculcate certainty of punishment or justice to people involved. ^{Answer} ~~not strict~~
- ③ Prevents abuse of power by king as well, as going against codified law is considered ethical ground for conspiracy by Kautilya.
- ④ Officials need not follow arbitrary orders of superiors, thus they are also safeguarded.

Remarks

- (5) Enhances overall law & order situation far away from defects of Matya Nyaya
- (6) Improves rationality & efficiency of governance framework as standards are set.

The principles of codification was taken forward by Nughes - Kagaji Govt. is followed by Weberian bureaucracy & is enshrined in concept of Rule of law as well.

- (b) Budget is termed as a political instrument by many theorists like Wildavsky. The political underpinnings of budgets are seen competing with its economic instrumentality.

- (1) Budget gives teeth to political manifesto realisation through allotment for policies.
- (2) Budget caters to different pressure groups & vote-banks explicitly.
- (3) Budget is seen as a platform for discussing previous successes of the political party.

Remarks

- ④ Economic conditions are blamed on previous govt. & new allocations are treated as a messiah.
- ⑤ Budgets before elections, becomes a main points for populism. eg. debate over PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.
- An economic instrument would purely allocate resources to the most rational structure, based on demand-supply considerations and economic objectives. The controversies & market excitements created by Budget gives it a clear political colouration.

5.(C) Indian federalism is termed as sui-generis due to its unique composition and traits.

In recent years, it has undergone many changes towards: ^{more} _{more} ^{flexible} _{central}.

① Cooperative federalism

Where harmony between centre & state and amongst states is desired. This can be seen through Interstate Councils, success

of zonal councils, sharing of best practices, etc. The Niti Aayog Governing Council is the recent addition in the push towards cooperative federalism.

Competitive federalism

It is characterised by healthy competition between federal units for funds, investments, development goal achievement, etc.

eg. The Niti Aayog indices on Health, Education & SDG achievement for different states is seen boosting competitive federalism.

Different states are attracting investors both domestic & global through submits.

eg. Vibrant Gujarat Summit.

Fiscal federalism

It involves sharing of funds both vertically (between centre & states) and horizontally (amongst states).

The 14th FC's recommendation for 42% devolution to state is an eg. of fiscal federalism

Remarks

- The establishment of GST Council is considered as a mechanism for fiscal federalism.
- The debate over rationalisation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (NK Singh Committee) is also expressing fiscal federalism.
- Thus, federalism is adapting to the changes in inter-state & centre-state relations through different avenues.

5(d) NGOs are seen mushrooming in developmental activities like health, education, etc. This rise has been viewed as the decline of legitimacy of the govt., which need not be the case. *get context right
more analysis
more needed* 1 1/2

The state itself encourages NGOs to undertake developmental activities as it is more aligned to the value considerations of the ~~the~~ popular and resistance of people in engaging with NGOs is ~~more~~ less as compared to state.

However this mushrooming of NGOs also raises ethical concern of quality, legitimacy etc. The government taking cognisance of the issue has began an empanelment drive for NGOs under Niti Aayog.

The collaboration of Govt. & NGOs should be viewed with confidence by people. for this to occur concerns about funding, transparency and autonomy must be allayed by following Vijay Kumar Committee recommendations.

The quality of such developmental activities must be monitored & certified by the govt. to ensure both collaboration & maintenance of legitimacy of the government.

Remarks

s.(e) Law & Order's twin challenge has caused erosion in legitimacy of politics.

Criminalisation of Politics not what?
but how?

- The NN Vohra Committee analysed this issue with many individuals with criminal antecedents in politics.
- Law-breakers become law-makers.
- Amendments to RPA, 1951 sect. 8 is warranted to prevent this menace.

(3)

Politicisation of criminals

- Criminals receive political patronage.
- They can surpass justice system due to political affiliations.
- Harms the cause of law & order because of rampant flouting of law.

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Remarks

6. Answer the following questions:

- (a) Administrative Reforms in India are like planes on paper. They are theoretically designed to fly, but end up not flying. Critically analyze with examples in India's reforms journey. (250 Words) (20)
- (b) Lateral Entry in the civil services can strengthen the "steel frame" or lead to its rusting. Critically analyse. (250 Words) (20)
- (c) The CAG does the post mortem of the expenditure. Social audit can complement it to make auditing more efficient. Comment with respect to auditing of flagship programmes. (100 Words) (10)

Remarks

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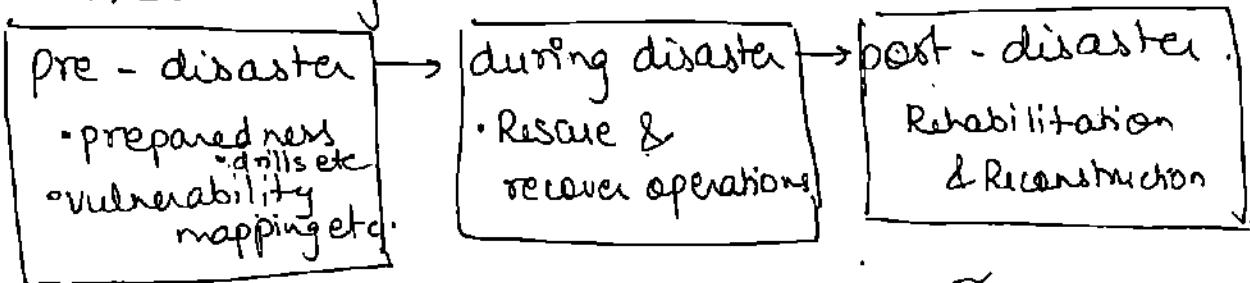
7. Answer the following questions:

- (a) National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) is a comprehensive strategy for administration for all stages in management of disasters. Can pre-disaster efforts help in better management of disasters? Discuss. (250 Words) (20)
- (b) Critically analyse the role of SHGs in the realm of rural development. (250 Words) (20)
- (c) A comprehensive and collaborative strategy in the form of "National Urban Policy" is needed to counter challenges of urban development. Comment.

[NDMP] (100 Words) (10)

The National Disaster Management Plan (2016) is the conceptualisation of disaster resilience taking cognisance of the Sendai Framework (2015-30), Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015), and the Sustainable Development Goals (2015-30).

The NDMP taking cue from the Sendai framework involves five components. Each of these components takes actions for all the 3 stages of disaster management:



The components of NDMP are:

① Understanding the Risk

This is a pre-disaster stage. It includes vulnerability mapping, assessment, zoning, etc.

Remarks

- It can be undertaken by pre studying previous cases & international collaborations.

(2) Inter Agency Collaboration

- It is a pre-disaster mechanism to create effective communication between various agencies eg NCMC, NDMA, SDMA, DDMA, NDRF, etc.
- It includes assigning roles & responsibilities.

(3) Undertaking Disaster Risk Resilience (Structural measures)

This includes strengthening infrastructure, conducting post-disaster monitoring, etc.

hard effort

(4) Undertaking Disaster Risk Resilience (Non-structural measures)

- Effective legislations, coordination, awareness generation, mock drills etc.

(5) Capacity Building

Structural & better
work
and
work
with
the
people

It is a pre & post disaster step such that there is sufficient human resource during the disaster.

eg. Odisha Govt's recent move Swayam Siddha to train women SHGs to cater to Cyclone disaster to conditions.

During disaster, the NDMP has responsibilities earmarked, forces on backup, inter-state aid, etc. to handle the disaster & to prevent secondary (cyclic) disaster due to death & destruction.

~~Post disaster NDMP caters to psychological, social, economic rehabilitation which is a positive step for hand holding victims, also envisions to BUILD BACK BETTER. Pre-disaster efforts can help in better management~~

~~of disasters because:~~ ^{Prevention & mitigation}

- ① Reduces chaos of roles & responsibilities during disaster.
- ② The awareness generated, mock drills reduces the panic that sets in. (9)
- ③ The pre-disaster efforts will help using disasters as an opportunity for further capacity building & reduce cyclic form of 2^o disaster creation.
- ④ Better coordination & human resource can help undertake humanitarian efforts more consciously.

Thus, the NDMP 2016 is a comprehensive document.

Remarks

which if followed in letter & spirit — can be a game changer for DM in India.

(b) SHGs are voluntary organisation of people with similar economic conditions who come together to enhance thrift and benefit from synergy of collaborations.

SHGs were originally envisioned as an internal lending mechanism where collateral is trust and peer pressure.

With the SHG-Bank linkage Program in 1990s the capacity of SHGs has expanded, and they are now expected to be game changers in rural development.

Role of SHGs in Rural Development

1. They enhance the disposable income of individuals, leads to more consumption & help drive rural economy.
2. SHGs enhance credit availability in rural areas thus dependence on money lenders is reduced and escape from debt trap is possible.

Remarks

3. SHGs act as a source of employment in many cases, thus enhancing rural development. eg. Kudambashree Model in Kerala.
4. SHGs can undertake capacity building & skill development of members which acts as a ~~bedrock~~ for rural development.
5. SHGs act as a source for women empowerment (86% of SHGs are all women ones), that can act as a platform to reduce patriarchial limitations on women.
6. SHGs may lead to entrepreneurship in rural areas due to the credit availability, thus can reduce dependence of on agriculture, and boost non-farm rural economy.
7. SHGs can lead to upliftment of downtrodden classes as well that is needed for rural development.
8. SHGs can lead to behavioral change in campaigns like Swachh Bharat.

Remarks

like Swachh Bharat

- 8. SHGs can undertake social audits of Gram Panchayats, etc. thus enhancing capacity of PRIs.
- 9. The recent move by Odisha Govt. (Swayam Siddha) showcases SHG's role in crisis & disaster management.
- 10. Activities of local bodies can be outsourced to SHGs. eg. waste disposal to Kudumbashree.

The potential of SHG in rural development however remains limited because:

- ① Ascriptive & discriminatory values in SHGs among members remain. 8
- ② Capacity building of SHGs is not undertaken.
- ③ The SHG-Bank Linkage pgm. has led to defaults & disintegration of SHGs in states like TN.
- ④ Skewed success in few states Kerala, AP → regional disparity
- ⑤ SHGs are dominated by a few well-off households and has not percolated to the masses.
- ⑥ Loans being taken for social obligations eg. weddings, functions, etc. rather than entrepreneurship and development.

Thus, ^{proper} ~~capacity~~ development of SHG is vital before expecting it to change the rural development landscape

Remarks

(C) The challenges of urban development have not received due policy consideration which has led to urban decay in India.

The Ahmedabad Committee Report flagged many challenges faced by ULBs that has to be countered for Urban development; some include

① functional challenges - sewerage treatment

~~work effort is more better to address question~~ water supply waste disposal Urban housing (243-4)

(B)

② fund related challenges - The SFCs are not set up or do not give recommendations on time that need not be accepted.

③ Poor District Planning Committee (243-ZD) & Metropolitan PC (243-ZE) are not functioning efficiently.

④ Poor citizen participation in policy formulation.

The 2nd ARC recommended formation of National Commission on Urbanisation to handle the challenges of urban development.

A comprehensive strategy that is

collaborative is needed because:

- ① Challenges are complementary & interdependent.
 - ② Many stakeholders are involved -
citizens, migrants, ULBs, Resident Welfare Associations,
State Govts., City administration etc.
 - ③ Transit oriented development needed
(Rakesh Mohan Committee report)
 - ④ Need to incorporate environmental concerns,
green spaces, etc. in policy.
 - ⑤ Need to boost private participation (PPP - 2nd Actor
ULB)
- Thus, a National Urban Policy should provide
broad guidelines to develop urban spaces &
prevent skewed development & distress migrations

Remarks

8. Answer the following questions:

(a) Rural tourism can act as catalyst for rural development. Critically analyse.

(250 Words) (20)

(b) Critically analyse the recently amended UAPA.

(250 Words) (20)

(c) RTI Act still remains a work in progress. Comment.

(100 Words) (10)

8.(a) Rural development was initially viewed to be heavily dependent on agriculture. However, recent data shows agriculture accounts for just 34% of the rural economy.

The major fillip is received from the ~~Rural~~ Non-farm rural economy that includes manufacturing, education, health, etc.

A key constituent of this economy is the Rural Tourism sector that holds immense potential for rural development.

Rural Tourism as a catalyst for Rural Development

1. It boasts of solid demand as a getaway destination for urban populace as well as for foreign tourists.

2. It can lead to enhancement of ~~rural life~~ rural infrastructure - roads, toilets, etc.

Remarks

that is needed for rural development.

3. It can lead to boost in artisanship and safeguarding of rural heritage of India which will reduce push for distress & bonded employment.
4. It is more remunerative, thus will enhance disposable income of rural populace, boost consumption and demand in the rural economy. ^{hard effort}
5. It will lead to rise in self-esteem of rural populace, boost behavioral change for cleanliness, etc. which will lead to rural development.
6. Ascriptive discrimination, backward outlook, etc. can be reduced due to the exposure to new cultures, opportunities, etc.
7. It will lead to increase in auxillary facilities in the rural areas eg. banking, medical care, etc.

Remarks

The potential of rural tourism as a catalyst for rural development is doubted because:

- ① Tendency to maintain 'rural character' for tourism can lead to non-development of infrastructure, roads, etc.
- ② Majority of population will still have to depend on agriculture due to poor assets, skills etc.
- ③ Exploitation of rural populace may lead to anti-tourist sentiments, etc. (9)
- ④ The demand for rural tourism needs to be gauged at a micro level for every rural area as it is not a homogenous group.

The rural circuit via the Swadesh Darshan Scheme is bound to boost rural tourism in certain areas. A detailed study of its success & failure and impact on rural development should be employed for further scaling up.

8.(b) The Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) was legislated to prevent acts of terrorism, organised crime, etc.

The legislation has been useful in preventing many miscreants by preventive detention, etc.

The recent amendments to the UAPA was envisaged to give teeth to the UAPA as follows:

- ~~hooked~~ 10
- ① It allows the state to designate an individual as a terrorist. ~~It's just one~~ ^{over all suggestion} Earlier the Act only allowed designations for organisations. This amendment was needed because our ~~global~~ push to designate Masood Azhar as a terrorist faced flak for India not having designated him a terrorist ~~ourselves~~. Such an amendment can help us overcome this vacuum in our terrorism policy.

Remarks

② It allows for investigation and arrest by an officer of the rank of Sub-Inspector associated with the NIA.

It was needed because the bureaucratic hierarchical lacunae gave enough time for miscreants to escape which was an easily avoidable situation, that has been overcome by the amendment.

③ The NIA can undertake investigation & arrests under UAPA in any state without the state's permission. It was also undertaken to reduce the time taken in such obligation. The amendments have been criticised on the following grounds:

① It does not define "terrorist" or give exhaustive conditions, thus civil society fears it can be misused by the government to arrest people who need not have terrorist affiliation.

It also brands someone as a terrorist before due process of law has convicted them.

Remarks

② It gives immense power to officers of the NIA without commensurate accountability measures.

③ The overpassing of states is a direct threat to federalism as the authority of states to give permission has been diluted.

The Govt. has vehemently opposed the Act being used for political vendetta and abuses against misuse. Experts from the NIA welcome the step as a step to give teeth to the anti-terrorism mechanism.

The Govt. may consider creating an arrangement of not branding people terrorist without concrete evidences and may warrant for a charge sheet being filed.

The fight against terrorism has to be united one, thus allaying fears regarding the amendments should be a priority.

(C) The RTI Act, 2005 was envisioned to bring in transparency and for democratisation of information.

The RTI Act remains a work in progress to fulfill its stated objectives because:

- ① Section 4 - suo moto disclosures still not followed as much.
- ② Poor awareness regarding RTI which is the responsibility of state under ~~Section~~ 26.
- ③ Refusal of information on grounds of privacy & official secrets are high.
- ④ Safety of RTI activists is a cause of concern.
- ⑤ Capacity building of PIOs & ICs is still needed.
- ⑥ Storage of data needs to be refurbished so that its retrieval & sharing becomes easier.

~~Two recent amends~~

④ Many institutions out of the ambit of RTI,

e.g. Judiciary, political parties, NGOs etc.

The recent amendments to RTI Act raises

concern about Govt. interference in this independent body. The work for strengthening the Act has received poor political will.

Thus, RTI Act will remain work in progress as long as a veil exists between information and the principal (citizens)

Remarks