

APPLIED GS

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Q.	Marks	Instructions to Candidate
1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are 20 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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Name B. Chaitanya Reddy.Roll No. ONGSMTS2018116

Mobile No. _____

Date 29/12/18

Signature _____

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

REMARKS

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Q1. As per World Water Development Report, nature-based solutions which are also aligned with the principles and aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - can offer answers to our most pressing water-related challenges. In this context, elaborate on the issue of water scarcity and discuss nature-based solution for water conservation and management. (12.5 Marks)

The problem of water crisis has been catastrophic all over the world. The recent examples of water crisis in Cape ~~town~~ town of South Africa & Shimla in India depict the severity of the problem.

Nature of the problem (water crisis) :-

- 1) As per the ~~WHO~~^{UN} report 21 out of 37 world's major aquifers are in the stage of fast depletion.
- 2) WHO report mentions water crisis as one of the 3 major causes of deaths in the world.
- 3) NITI Aayog report mentions that by 2030, in India nearly 600 mn population are affected by water crisis.

Why (Reasons for water crisis) :-

- 1) Mismanagement of natural waterbodies. Bangalore, in 1960's had 280 major waterbodies which now shrank to 80 waterbodies.

Remarks

- 2) The natural water ~~store~~ bodies & wet lands which store water are being encroached upon for developmental projects
- 3) Over use of groundwater for Commercial & domestic purpose which is decreasing water table.
- 4) nearly 50% of water is wasted while transporting due to leakages.
- 5) Over usage not knowing the importance of the natural resource

Nature based solutions for water management

- 1) Rain water harvesting systems are to be made compulsory for every house. Tamil Nadu has made it mandatory already.
 - 2) Awareness about the traditional water retaining structures like Bawars, dams etc is to be created
 - 3) Kudi mooramath technique which revives the wells & water bodies is to be followed
 - 4) Community water storage systems help storing the rain water
 - 5) Resitting of the traditional water bodies to increase their Storage Capacity
- Reuse, Reduce, Recycle must be the mantra in order to transfer our planet to future generations in a livable state.

Remarks

- Q2. While robotics and automation technologies may disrupt our lives in the future, these could also potentially create avenues and opportunities for individuals and businesses.
Comment. (12.5 Marks)

Robotics & automation technologies involve multidisciplinary approaches which include electronics, robotics, controls, computers & electronic engineering. They are considered to be part of next generation Industrial Revolution and are being used in all areas ~~where~~ including where the human interface is difficult. Ex: Drones for surveillance & rescue.

Robotics & Automation technologies may disrupt our lives

- 1) These technologies may replace the human jobs. It is estimated that they replace nearly 800 Mn jobs by 2030.
- 2) These technologies lead to complete change of life style of human beings which is as impactful as transition from agriculture to industrial revolution.
- 3) The professionals who lose jobs because of automation may have to be retrained but by the time they would be in middle ages & not young. So their reorientation would be difficult.
- 4) They increase inequalities.

Remarks

Creation of new avenues & opportunities.

- 1) Robotics & automation technology help in achieving the tasks which are impossible for human that too with ease & in less-time.
- 2) They may destroy certain jobs but not work. New jobs are being created with new type of work & new avenues. Reskilling the professionals may help them.
Ex: Invention of personal computer in US has created 18 mn new jobs in US though it has destroyed accountant jobs.
- 3) They help in achieving high level of accuracy & excellency which further result in high profits.
- 4) ~~Big data & analytics~~ Artificial Intelligence makes the work easier. It even decreases the rural urban divide if properly used.

New technologies have always had impact on status quo & created fear of change in the minds of people but coping up well with transition changes will lead to huge Economic development.

Remarks

Q3. Smart water solutions such as improving water management systems and networks are critical to address water crisis in urban areas and also challenges of urbanization. Analyze the statement in the light of water scarcity issue plaguing Indian cities.

(12.5 Marks)

Since the past decade, unplanned urbanisation has resulted in water problems which is visible through declining water tables & growing water pollution.

Reasons for water crisis in Urban areas

- 1) Increasing pace of urbanisation.
- 2) Groundwater exploitation for Commercial & domestic use.
- 3) Distribution & water loss issues because of theft, pilferage, leakages. Nearly 40% - 50% of water is lost in distribution system.
- 4) Drainage issues: NSSO Survey says only 47% households ^{have} individual water connections.
- 5) Storm drains are inadequate & ill-maintained.
- 6) Natural recharge zones are typically not taken into account in planning for urban expansion.
- 7) Water pollution is heavy in urban water bodies.

Remarks

Smart water Solutions

- 1) Recycling & harvesting.
- 2) Community initiatives viz- decentralized treatment plants etc
- 3) water-ATMs to ensure metered supply of safe water
- 4) Testing & purification using household water testing kits, multi household water filter systems etc.
- 5) Public awareness about saving water by providing tax incentives, water credits etc
- 6) Technology usage - Government Apps to spread tips on water saving, report leakages etc.

Remarks

Q4. Do you think India is prepared for extreme weather events in cities? Give your opinion. Also, suggest some strategies to tackle urban flooding. (12.5 Marks)

With increasing climate change, there is rise in the extreme weather events in the past decade. Floods in Kerala, Chennai, Vishakapatnam, Drought in Jammu & Kashmir are the recent examples.

The sporadic & unplanned urban growth has made the cities vulnerable to the extreme weather events leading to issues like urban flooding etc.

Reasons for Urban flooding

- 1) Improper urban planning resulting in less drainage capacity
- 2) In-migration from rural to urban areas as well as increase in overall population growth.
- 3) Encroachment of natural water bodies, wetlands etc which are supposed to act as water sponges.
- 4) Lack of proper hydrological data. Improper topographical surveys while constructing.

India's Preparedness for Extreme weather events

- 1) National Disaster Management Authority :
 - a) Short-term measures: It has ordered civic authorities

Remarks

- to maintain drainage networks properly by delogging them, constructing water storage pits etc

b) long term measures: proper planning of drainage network, prevention of encroachment of water retaining & evolving areas etc.

c) Pilot project in Chennai which is working on long term resilient drainage systems and removal of illegal constructions which obstruct the natural drainage & ^{an} Early warning system

Measures to tackle urban flooding

1) Individual level: do not opt for constructions on wetlands etc

2) Community level: proper maintaining of drainage network & not dumping waste in drainage.

3) ward level: map areas which are prone to flooding

4) district level: proper communication system to take immediate actions in case of flooding. Proper urban planning

5) Early warning system that delivers signals to vulnerable areas

6) No permits for new constructions that obstruct that natural drainage & wetlands. Compulsory Rainwater harvesting systems.

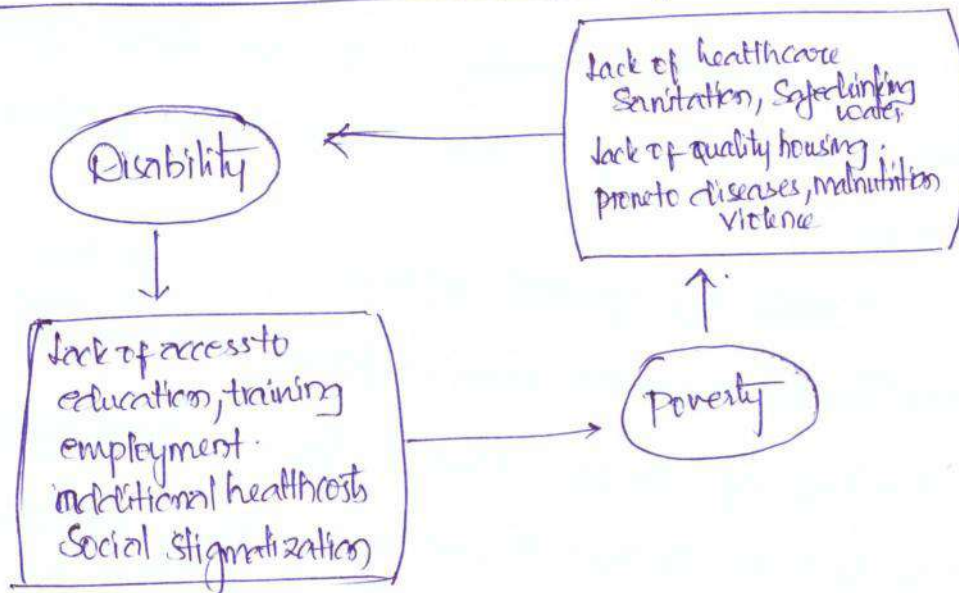
Urban floods are the warning signals ~~that~~ regarding urbanization beyond sustainability. Wisdom lies in converting the problem into resource.

Remarks

Q5. Disability and poverty fuel each other in a brutal cycle of hardship and deprivation, which is hard to escape. Elaborate. Also, highlight the measures needed to make approach towards the disabled more inclusive. (12.5 Marks)

India, at present, has nearly 2% of its population who are disabled. These people are facing more exclusion because of lack of access to education, training, employment ^{because of} ~~the~~ social stigmatization.

Relation between Disability & poverty



(Fig: Vicious Cycle of Disability & poverty)

Present approach towards disabled

- 1) They are being treated as victims rather than the participants of the process. Their rights are being ignored.

Remarks

- 1) The ~~feedback~~ feedback collection from the stakeholders of the schemes are not being given importance.
- 2) No Inclusive ICT. Almost all the apps, websites do not have provision for disabled friendliness.
- 3) Most of the buildings, transport are not disabled friendly making them perpetually be dependent on others for their daily needs.

Measures to make the approach inclusive

1. Rights based approach must be followed.
2. The feedback of disabled must be taken for every scheme related to them so that it can be ensured if they are actually benefitting from the schemes.
3. Inclusive ICT — All the websites, mobile apps must be made disabled friendly. Ex: Suganya pustakalaya is one scheme on this model.

The new Rights to Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 is the direction of more inclusiveness by increasing the no. of disabilities from 7 to 21 and by ensuring the participation of all stakeholders. However it must be strictly implemented.

Remarks

Q6. There has been a constant attempt towards making Panchayati Raj Institutions more egalitarian, to do away with the hampers done by the caste system, gender inequality and economic disparities. In this context, discuss the challenges in effective implementation of inclusive governance through Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(12.5 Marks)

The Panchayati Raj System though institutionalised in 1992 through 73rd Constitutional Amendment has been not effective in its working. It was institutionalised in order to ensure decentralization & effective implementation of policies based on needs at grass root levels. There are many obstacles which hamper its functioning.

Challenges to PRI's :-

- 1) Gender based challenges :- Though there is a provision of reservation of 33% women at local level, most of the women elected are just puppet heads with real decision making power in the hands of their husbands because of the traditional patriarchal mindset. In cases where women asserted power they were humiliated and sometimes even killed.
- 2) Caste based challenges :- The elected local representatives are humiliated by upper caste people in order to maintain status quo of social system.

Remarks

- 3) Lack of functional decentralization : Most of the states do not provide functional autonomy to the Panchayati Raj Institutions
- 4) Lack of Budgetary Support : State finances are not devolving properly making them dependent on state for every work - This reduces motto to take any initiatives by the representatives.
- 5) Illiteracy : most of the elected heads do not know what are their duties & there are no proper officials to suggest them
- 6) Corruption : The local heads eat away all the funds as the people are illiterate & do not ~~have~~ dare to ask them.
- 7) Lack of proper training : The elected representatives are to be trained well to know what all the resources they are provided with & what can be done for development.

Education is the tool which empowers the rural people to question & hold accountable the leaders at the local level for malpractices and make them efficiently work for development of villages.

Remarks

Q7. As per India inequality report 2018: Widening gaps, the top 1% of Indian population accounted for 22% of income in 2016. In this regard, mention the implications of income inequality, and suggest some measures that can be taken to address the issue.

(12.5 Marks)

Income inequality prevails all over the world and it is a result of improper developmental policies of government. Despite poverty & inequality being major political agenda, India has been facing drastic income inequalities which have been on rising mode.

Implications of income inequality

Social cost : because of rising costs of basic facilities the poor will not be able to afford basic education & ~~cannot get employment~~ health facilities.

Increasing unemployment : unaffordability of education results in lack of skill & lack of formal employment.

Increasing Slums : Poor migrating to urban areas in search of employment live in slums for generations together as they are trapped in vicious cycle of poverty.

Increased crimes : Because of lack of proper growth & lack of proper opportunities, youth will be prone to negative things like pickpocketing, crimes, rapes etc.

Remarks

Measures to address the issue

1) Government intervention needed to take strong redistributive measures, to take proper policies.

2) Universal Basic Income, Universal Health access would help the poor come out of their vicious cycle of poverty.

3) Right to Education must be strictly implemented leaving no child behind & ensuring proper education quality in government schools & colleges.

4) Usage of technology to bridge rural urban gap & for ~~per~~ better access of information about the opportunities to everyone.

— Apart from these basic steps, political will is much needed to decrease the rising inequalities.

- Q8. The Supreme Court issued a notice to the Centre over a public interest plea seeking direction to establish guidelines to prevent torture, cruelty, inhuman or degrading treatment of jail inmates. In this context, discuss the need of prison reforms and corrective measures in this direction. (12.5 Marks)

The no. of cases of Custodial torture and deaths have been on rise. The prisons have been overcrowded by ~~more~~ more than 25% and prisoners are living in subhuman conditions. This takes away their right to dignity. Supreme Court has stressed on need for prison reforms.

Need for prison reforms

- i) nearly 60% of the prisoners are undertrials & most of them had served ~~in~~ in jail for the duration more than that they would be sentenced to if they are proven guilty.
- ii) NHRC report says that the suicidal tendency among the prisoners is 16/1 lakh persons compared to the normal rate of 11/1 lakh persons. [the rate is more than ^{higher} 50% than normal]
- iii) In many states like UP overcrowding is more than 150% and there are no separate prisons for offenders of serious offences & minor offences. This may lead to ~~hardening~~ hardening of mentality of minor offenders.

Remarks

- 4) Disputes among the jail inmates, resulting in everyone exaggerating & being proud of their crimes to show their power.
- 5) Lack of proper rehabilitation for them to join the society
Lack of employment opportunities.

Corrective measures

- 1) Over crowding problem to be solved by fastening up cases of under-trials, providing bails, remission of sentence, releasing on good conduct etc.
- 2) Open jails can be used for offenders of minor crime, putting offenders of major crimes in normal jail. This ensures separation, decreases congestion, lessens disputes.
- 3) Peasant prisoners must be given opportunity to go for work during kharif season in order to ensure sufficient income for families.
- 4) Education & Vocational training to be provided to prisoners so that after release it would be easy for them to get employment.

Prison reforms must be holistic ensuring the provision of basic rights & ease for them to mingle with society after release.

Remarks

Q9. Do you think simultaneous elections for both the central and state legislatures can be implemented given the federal nature of Indian democracy is guaranteed by the constitution? Examine the various issues involved therein. (12.5 Marks)

The idea of simultaneous elections is not new for India. Post-independence from 1951-52 till 1968 we have followed simultaneous elections until in 1968 there was premature dissolution of some state assemblies & in 1970 Lok Sabha itself dissolved prematurely.

The idea was brought back by the former deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani. It has been recommended by Law Commission & Parliamentary Standing Committee also.

(Positives of simultaneous elections) :-

- 1) The governance would be continuous as the parties would be involved in election work only once in five years. There would be continuous ^{provision} working of essential services & more time can be invested in developmental policies.
- 2) It drastically decreases the expenditure to be incurred in elections, decreases administrative burden of Election Commission, Central armed forces & the workforce.

Remarks

involved in the election.

3) The Moral Code of Conduct would be implemented only once in 5 years, so there would be continuous functioning for rest of time.

(Negatives of Simultaneous elections) :-

1) States Legislative Assemblies have to be dissolved prematurely for which states don't accept & the question of what if Lok Sabha itself gets dissolved within 5 years.

2) The impact on voters mind set. ADR Report says in such cases 75% would vote for same party at Centre & state.

3) There should be differentiation between national issues & local issues, simultaneous elections wouldn't give enough time for voters to differentiate them.

4) We currently don't have enough officials & resources to conduct elections simultaneously.

The parliamentary standing committee's suggestion of elections in 2 phases could be considered. Whatever may be the election system, the basic tenets of democracy & citizens interest must be undismayed.

Remarks

Q10. It is said that parliamentary control over the executive in India exists more in theory than in practice. Examine. (12.5 Marks)

The Constitutional framers have adopted parliamentary form of democracy & ensured the balance of powers between executive, legislative & judiciary. The parliamentary control over executive is one way to ensure the balance.

The ways in which legislature controls executive:

- 1) Responsibility : The Council of ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha
- 2) Parliament can make executive accountable by using weapons like Question hour, Zero hour, no confidence motion, Censure motion etc.
- 3) Budgetary Control : Each & every aspect of the budget is passed only after voting ^{by legislature} & thus finances are protected from being misallocated
- 4) ~~Almost~~ Every bill is to be discussed by the legislature before becoming Act.
- 5) Parliamentary Standing Committees are also a way by which legislature controls executive.

Remarks

Parliamentary Control of Executive in practice

- 1) In practice, the control is decreasing because of non-functioning Parliament as a result of disruptions of sessions.
- 2) The power of Ordinance is being misused to bypass the scrutiny of legislature.
- 3) Many bills are being passed as money bills to escape the rejection of Rajyasabha. Ex: Aadhaar Bill
- 4) Guillotine motion is being used to escape the discussions on any bill.
- 5) Lack of training of MPs regarding their duties.
- 6) Increase in delegated legislation.

Way forward

- 1) The emergency of 'Ordinance' is to be more scrutinized by legislature.
- 2) Parliamentary standing committees to be strengthened.
- 3) There is need for proper training for MPs regarding international standards of functioning of parliament.

Remarks

Q11. "While Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 is a fairly standard western approach towards Alternate Dispute Resolution, the Lok Adalat system constituted under National Legal Services Authority Act, 1987 is a uniquely Indian approach". Compare the two and examine their working. (12.5 Marks)

Both Arbitration & Conciliation System & Lok Adalat System ~~are~~ help in just resolution of disputes without any lengthy procedures and higher charges involved.

Alternate Dispute Mechanism

It is a process by which the disputes between the parties is solved without any legalities by using ~~Arbi~~ methods of Arbitration, Conciliation, Adjudication.

Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996

It provides following methods for dispute resolution

1) Arbitration: This option is available only when there is a legal agreement between the 2 parties prior to the dispute

2) Conciliation: This is a less formal method of dispute resolution.

It doesn't ~~necessit~~ require the presence of prior legal agreement between disputing parties. One of them can ~~send~~ request a Conciliator. There can be multiple Conciliators ~~where~~ but they must work jointly.

Remarks

3) Compromise : Both the disputing parties can together discuss & come to a conclusion based on consensus.

(Lok Adalat System):

1) This ^{is based on} traditional system where disputes in village are settled by elderly persons. Lok Adalat can be established by state authorities, High Court Legal Services Authorities, Supreme Court Legal Services authorities etc.

2) It is chaired by retired judge, social activist & other members from legal services.

3) The disputing party can directly approach judge which is not possible in case of normal courts.

4) Lok Adalats have power of civil court. The award given cannot be appealed in any court not even under A-226, because award is given based on consensus.

5) The cases from SC & HC can be transferred to Lok Adalat when one of the parties request or when court feels it can be solved in Lok Adalat. It will be transferred back if not solved.

Currently, both Lok Adalats & Alternate Dispute Mechanism are being used, ADR is now limited mostly to commercial disputes.

Q12. Agricultural science and technology, Information and communication technologies (ICT) and other new technologies need to be targeted towards providing solutions to the issues threatening global food security. In this context, examine and discuss the initiatives taken by the government under 'National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A)' in this regard? (12.5 Marks)

Food security is one of the main issues on global agenda

Extreme weather events
 Shifts in weather patterns
 Increased vulnerability of crops to pests
 Global population growth.
 Loss of farm land to industrial development

} → food shortages.

Role of ICT

- 1) Information on weather reports, crop pricing, educating farmers about new farming technologies Ex. e-choupal
 Helps farmers to achieve better yields & prices
- 2) providing early warning system in case of natural calamities
- 3) monitoring environment & soil conditions
- 4) Better communication between producers, traders & consumers will reduce wastage of food grains
 Ex: Use of RFID tags to track inventories.

Remarks

Role of SFT

- 1) Use of transgenic crops to increase productivity
- 2) Soil management using sustainable fertilizers Ex: Neem Coated fertilizers
- 3) Irrigation technologies like Solar irrigation etc
- 4) Big data & IoT - help in farmer decision support & precision farming

NeSP-A

- 1) provides Agri Services like pesticide registration, prices & arrival details etc
- 2) Mobile applications Ex: kisan Suvidha portal help farmers by providing information related to agriculture
- 3) Development of web portals like m-kisan portal where officials & scientists can send targeted advisories to farmers
- 4) Modernization of land records.

- Every 9th person is undernourished, majority live in developing countries & rural areas. Increasing food security being ICT, SFT is need of hour.

Remarks

Q13. Pan-India electronic trading portal, National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) can become a game changer, but the mechanism has inherent structural limitations. What are these limitations? Also, critically analyze the challenges faced by e-NAM and propose solutions to overcome them in the context of unified agricultural market. (12.5 Marks)

— Agri marketing in India is in fragmented state,
 — Each state has multiple APMCs & have different market regulations, — thus hindering free flow.

National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) is a pan India electronic trading portal. It networks existing APMC markets & create unified national market.

It is a game changer because archaic agri marketing practices have been restricting economies of sale for farmers. e-NAM helps in best price realisation across the country.

Structural limitations of NAM

- 1) Regulatory reform — Each state has own regulations & are opposing unified reforms
- 2) Electronic auction — digital literacy among farmers is low.
- 3) Testing, Sampling, Standardisation — It is specific for each commodity
- 4) Intermediaries still exist at many levels

Remarks

5) Transportation costs are nearly 14% of supply chain costs

6) Access to markets is difficult to many farmers

Over Coming Challenges

1) States must follow regulatory reforms to allow single license, single point levy, auction provision for price discovery.

2) PPP models for testing, sampling, standardisation

3) Digital India program helps in training farmers.
E-trading must be done in local languages

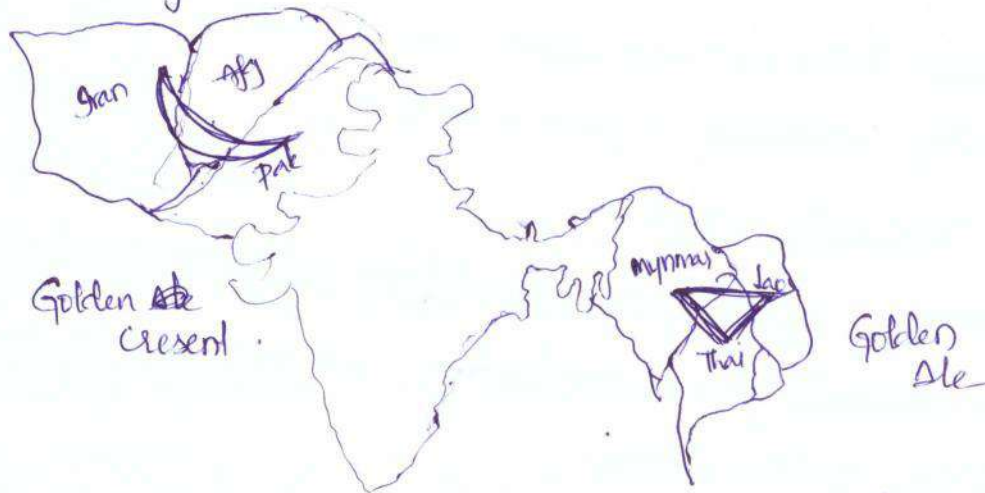
4) multi modal transportation, storage facilities to be provided.

e-NAM is a welcome shift in investing in, upgrading & opening up markets. It should focus on removing all types of barriers.

Remarks

Q14. India's both eastern and western borders are highly affected by menace of drug trafficking across the borders. It has devastated life of many youth in these Border States and also become a challenge to internal security. Discuss. Also, discuss the role of non-state actors contributing to this menace. (12.5 Marks)

The Golden Crescent in the west (Iran, Afg, Pakistan) which is also known as silk route for Drugs. & Golden triangle in the east (Myanmar, Laos, Thailand) are responsible for drug menace in the Border States in India.



Porous borders, disturbed areas, increased militancy has led to increased drug trafficking across the borders.

Impact on youth

- 1) In Punjab nearly 75% of the youth are addicted to the drugs.
- 2) In NE there is huge demand for drugs among the local population and 80% of them are addicted to drugs at least.

Remarks

Once in their life time.

- 3) This drug menace is devastating the youths life from deviating them away from education & no growth as a result. They are poverty stricken
- 4) The Crime rates in these states are increasing. They are being motivated towards militancy.

Role of non-state actors

- 1) In Kashmir 15% of funds to militancy are from drug trafficking.
- 2) It is contributing to arms trading, human trafficking as the routes used are same.
- 3) drug trafficking benefits non state actors in both ways i.e., getting finance & disturbing internal security
- 4) In NE the insurgent groups are contributing to the menace

Way forward

- 1) The border security must be strengthened
- 2) ^{must} Take help to neighbours to stop it
- 3) Deaddiction centres to be established to protect the lives of youth.

Remarks

- 1) few states only have instituted social audit despite it being mandatory for MGNREGS.
- 2) Local representatives who resist to malpractices have resisted Social Audit.
- 3) Its impact is nearly absent on ground level.
- 4) No follow up or no punishments, making it weak.
no establishment of vigilance cells.
- 5) Expertise among local bodies is lacking.

Way forward

- 1) Social Audit must be institutionalised in all states.
- 2) Enforcement must be timely & there must be penalties.
- 3) Capacity building must be focused on.
- 4) Budgetary & Institutional support must be provided.

Supreme Court has recently reminded the importance of social audits in improving government practices. The challenges to social audit must be looked into & properly implemented.

Remarks

Q16. How can Start Up India programme help in filling the gap of missing medium scale enterprises which are vital for employment generation? (12.5 Marks)

The MSME sector in India helps in the economic growth of the country by providing employment with less capital investment. They are the drivers of economy as 90% of employers are concentrated in it. They fill the rural urban gap. They help in redistributing wealth. They also act as auxiliary units to larger industries.

However the missing middle has always been there because the MSME sector includes

MSME $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 99\% \text{ Small \& micro enterprises} \\ 1\% \text{ medium enterprises.} \end{array} \right.$

Problems for medium scale enterprises

- 1) Problem of raising capital from banks, venture capital funds, angel investors etc.
- 2) The problem of Angel tax & other barriers for growth.
- 3) Structural hiccups while establishing
- 4) Infrastructural barriers increase their cost of operating.

Remarks

Government has come up with Startup India program in 2016 to provide a collaborative platform to encourage innovation for startups.

The provisions of Startup India

- 1) Tax exemption for 3 years in a period of 5 years
- 2) Creation of fund of funds with 1000 Cr corpus under SEBI registered AIFs which invest in VCF which further invest in startups
- 3) The procedural ease for establishing startup
- 4) Ease for registration of patents thus enabling them to protect their IPRs.
- 5) A hub for collaborative research and guidance for research & development.

The Startup India is a scheme in right direction which fills the gap of missing middle by ~~also~~ providing suitable environment for the medium scale startups.

Remarks

Q17. The introduction of JAM trinity and MUDRA yojana has given a timely boost to the cause of financial inclusion and economic empowerment of women in India. Explain the statement and also throw light on why considerable challenges remains to women empowerment in India. (12.5 Marks)

As per the world Bank's definition Women empowerment is "increasing women's choices & freedom of action to participate in, negotiate with, influence, control & hold accountable institutions that affect their lives"

JAM trinity & Mudra Yojana have helped in Economic Empowerment of women. The impact of the scheme includes:

Financial inclusion & credit access :- Jhan Dhan Yojana increase penetration of banking services to women, especially in rural areas. Mudra Yojana resulted in better credit access via easy loans. 90% Mudra beneficiaries are women.

Avaling government schemes :- Jhan Dhan & Aardhar have held women avail benefits of schemes like Ujjwala, MGNREGS etc.

Employment :- Access to formal credit thru JAM & Mudra has increased self employment of women & made them job providers.

Remarks

Social upliftment: With economic empowerment, their social status increased & they became active decision makers in the family.

Challenges to Women Empowerment

Literacy: only (65%) of adult women are literate compared to 82% adult men.

Health: According to Lancet Report India accounted for about (15%) of all maternal deaths in world in 2015.

Employment: Though female literacy increasing, the female labour force participation rate is decreasing due to socioeconomic factors according to ICRIER report. At present it is (24%) in 2017.

Sexual harassment: Despite many acts & laws, it has been a problem even to women.

JAM & MUDRA have indeed given a timely boost to economic empowerment of women in India. But they can only be truly successful with holistic empowerment of women.

Q18. Welfare schemes have been at the heart of the state's poverty eradication agenda in India since 1970's. However, the 21st century has seen a qualitative shift in the way these welfare programs have been envisioned and implemented. Illustrate.

(12.5 Marks)

Poverty eradication has been one of main goals of India. It has been enshrined in preamble of Constitution. The DPSP provide to establish socialistic pattern of India. It has become political agenda of many parties since the inception of Garibi-Hatoo Campaign of Indira Gandhi in 1970's

Since 1970's many schemes like Area development programs, Swarnajayanti Surooj gas Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana, PDS etc have been implemented but with poor outcomes & more leakages.

Reasons for their inefficiency :-

- 1) Centralized topdown approach, bureaucratic inefficiency
- 2) Poor Coordination among different govt. agencies
- 3) Little awareness about schemes amongs beneficiaries
- 4) Poor targeting & high delays.

Remarks

In 21st Century there has been qualitative ^{shift in} implementation of pro-poor schemes. There is shift in focus towards:

- 1) Rights based approach.
- 2) time bound focus on service delivery
- 3) Strengthening of local governments in implementing schemes
- 4) Demands based approach
- 5) Community participation in implementing & formulation
- 6) Empowering citizens through Citizen charters & Right to information about the schemes.
- 7) Introduction of JAM trinity to reach out speedily to beneficiaries & also plug leakages.

Much needs to be done to ensure that the welfare schemes are reached to the targeted poor. There should be focus on decreasing inequalities in order to eradicate poverty.

Q19. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) of the US government keeps millions of people from falling into poverty each year. Write a note on the SNAP and discuss if similar program can work for India. (12.5 Marks)

SNAP which was formerly known as Food Stamp program, provides food-purchasing assistance for low & no-income people living in US.

Benefits of SNAP:-

- 1) Nearly 43 million poor & low-income Americans benefit from it.
- 2) It improves future prospects of poor children by increasing their health & education rates.
- 3) It supported farm economy by creating bigger market for food.

Limitations

- 1) It added to profits of big Corporations & banks
- 2) There have been unexpected increase in administrative costs

Can it work for India?

Supportive Arguments:

- 1) Subsidy handed over to poor household directly instead of giving it to PDS shop owners. It may reduce leakages.

Remarks

2) nearly 40% of food grains meant for poor are pilfered on the way. Much of food grains find its way to Nepal, Burma, Bangladesh.

3) Administrative problems are less compared to problems of physically procuring, storing, transporting & delivering grains in Fair price shops.

Arguments Against

1) Food Coupons have been means of narrow targeting

2) Administration of scheme costly & complex

3) It reduces real value of food subsidy. As food stamps are given in nominal terms.

4) It doesn't ensure physical availability of food or access to food.

India rather than blindly adopting the scheme, it should make it more effective filling the lacune of the scheme & adopt it in ingenious way.

Q20. Elaborate on India's nuclear 'no first use' policy. What are the challenges to its relevance in current times? (12.5 Marks)

In 2003, India has adopted the doctrine of 'No First Use (NFU)' policy of nuclear weapons. It maintains a "credible minimum deterrence" i.e., assured retaliation with appropriate second strike capability.

Background :-

By late 1990's Pakistan & China already being armed with nuclear weapons necessitated 1998 Pokhran test, declaring India as nuclear weapon state. After that, India as a responsible power came up with NFU that its assertion as nuclear power is only for defence.

Challenges to its relevance in Current times

- 1) Pakistan has not officially enunciated its nuclear doctrine. Increasing stock pile of Pakistan nuclear weapons & China's expansionist policies necessitate a change in doctrine.
- 2) Globally, very few countries adhere to NFU
- 3) - Ambiguity in nuclear weapons posture is necessary to create confusion in the minds of Indian adversaries.

Remarks

Why NFU is still important

- 1) Leaving it will damage India's status of responsible nuclear power & its commitment to universal goal of nuclear disarmament
- 2) Leaving NFU policy would act as signal of provocation
- 3) It also hinders India's entry into NSG group.

With changing strategic calculation, India shouldn't be hesitant to revise the doctrine in its national interest. Long term solution lies in nuclear disarmament to which India has played an active role.

Remarks