Model Hints
General Studies
PAPER - 2
1. Discuss the essentials of the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act and anomalies, if any that have led to recent reported conflicts between the elected representatives and the institution of the Lieutenant Governor in the administration of Delhi. Do you think that this will give rise to a new trend in the functioning of the Indian federal politics?


3. The Indian party system is passing through a phase of transition which looks to be full of contradictions and paradoxes." Discuss.

4. Exercise of CAG’s powers in relation to the accounts of the Union and the States is derived from Article 149 of the Indian Constitution. Discuss whether audit of the Government's Policy implementation could amount to overstepping its own (CAG) jurisdiction.

5. Discuss each adjective attached to the word 'Republic' in the preamble. Are they defendable in the present circumstances stances?

6. What was held in the Coelho case? In this context, can you say that judicial review is of key importance amongst the basic features of the Constitution?


8. What is a quasi-judicial body? Explain with the help of concrete examples.

9. Professor Amartya Sen has advocated important reforms in the realms of primary education and primary health care. What are your suggestions to improve their status and performance?

10. "In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal." Critically examine this statement.

11. "Effectiveness of the government system at various levels and people's participation in the governance system are inter-dependent." Discuss their relationship with each other in context of India.

12. In the integrity index of Transparency International, India stands very low. Discuss briefly the legal, political, economic, social and cultural factors that have caused the decline of public morality in India.

13. Has the Indian governmental system responded adequately to the demands of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization started in 1991? What can the government do to be responsive to this important change?
14. "Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have hampered the process of socio-economic development in India." Comment.

15. Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation.

16. "Demographic Dividend in India will remain only theoretical unless our manpower becomes more educated, aware, skilled and creative." What measures have been taken by the government to enhance the capacity of our population to be more productive and employable?

17. "The broader aims and objectives of WTO are to manage and promote international trade in the era of globalization. But the Doha round of negotiations seem doomed due to differences between the developed and the developing countries." Discuss in the Indian perspective.

18. Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India's Look East Policy in the context of the post-Cold War international scenario.

19. "Increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in India and growing interference in the internal affairs of several member-states by Pakistan are not conducive for the future of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)." Explain with suitable?

20. What are the aims and objectives of the McBride Commission of the UNESCO? What is India's position on these?
1. Discuss the essentials of the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act and anomalies, if any that have led to recent reported conflicts between the elected representatives and the institution of the Lieutenant Governor in the administration of Delhi. Do you think that this will give rise to a new trend in the functioning of the Indian federal politics?

Hints:

The Government of NCT of Delhi Act, included as the 69th amendment to the constitution in 1991, before coming to Article 239 AA of the constitution, we should consider the matter from historical perspective.

The principle of democracy and parliamentary sovereignty has been firmly established in England and elsewhere. Now it is not the king, but the people who are supreme, and they exercise their ‘general will’ and thus, the role of appointed officers have declined compared to that of elected.

In case of India, apex court held the President and Governor in India are like British king. They have to act on the advice of the council of ministers, and not on their discretion.

The British king still has 3 rights-(1) right to be consulted, (2) the right to encourage, and (3) the right to warn. But apart from these limited rights, he has to act in accordance with the advice of the Council of Ministers.

This was the legal position even before the 42nd constitutional amendment which amended Article 74 by adding the words “who shall act on the advice of the Council of Ministers.”

However, the expression ‘aid and advise’ is only a term of article, and it does not mean that the President or Governor has any discretion in the matter. It is true Delhi is not a fully fledged state, and certain power e.g., related to police and land is with the central Government. But Delhi is not a Union Territory, the 69th Amendment which introduced Article-239AA, provides a Legislature and a Council of Ministers.

“There shall be a Council of Minister with Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Lt. Governor in the exercise of his function in reference to matter with respect to which the Lt Governor has power to make laws, except insofar as he is, by or under law required to act his discretion.” Here, term ‘aid and advise’ has not a literally meaning but a term of article, otherwise democracy will be subverted.

The unique status of Delhi and multiplicity of authorities have always been a cause of trouble in administrative affairs. The recent various tussles between Delhi CM and Lt Governor is rooted in the clause of NCT Act, because both have interpreted differently to defend their stand points. Undoubtedly, there is some ambiguity that is the reason in recent the Home ministry's notification, while hearing Delhi's Government petition, termed it “suspected” and ruled that Delhi Government has no authority to probe central Government officials.

Further, the observation by Apex court added that Delhi HC ruling is tentative and would not be binding. The observation by Apex Court has complicated the legal conflict further.

Since Delhi is a special case, which doesn't get replicated in case of other states or UTs; along with the factor, that the several legislations by the Delhi Government have clearly exceeded the constitutional powers of the Government, such as the authority to Delhi lokayukt to be able to inspect central ministers and officials, have brought matters to standstill. However, the fear of happening the same in other states doesn't have solid foundation.

Hints: UPSC Mains Paper - 2

Hints:

In 1947, the princely state ‘J&K’ became a part of India by ‘the Instrument of Accession’. At that time, Ayyangar, (Constitutional Assembly Member) argued that for a variety of reasons Kashmir, unlike other princely states, was yet not ripe for complete integration. Moreover he argued, “Will of the people through the instrument of the (J&K) Constituent Assembly will determine the Constitution of the State as well as the sphere of the Union jurisdiction over state”.

Belief was that it would one day integrate like other states of union. Assuming this could happen only when there was real peace and only when people of the state acquiesced to such an arrangement. Hence, the use of term “temporary provision” is used in the title of the article and Article-370 was incorporated.

Article-370 was and is about providing space, in matter of governance, to the people of state who felt deeply vulnerable about their identity and insecure about the future.

Article-1 of Indian Constitution states India is not a confederation but a ‘Union of State’. Hence no state has a right to secede from it, and union is indissoluble. Supporting this statement J&K Constitution itself claim that J&K state is and shall continue to be the integral part of India.

Article-370, in its true nature not intact- A series of Presidential Order has eroded it substantially and made most Union laws applicable to the state. In this context, half a century back in 1963, Nehru remarked, “The process of erosion of Article 370 has began, many things have been done in last few years which made the relationship closer between Union and J&K.”

In fact today the autonomy enjoyed by the state is a shadow of its former self, and virtually there is no institution of the Republic of India that does not include J&K within its scope of jurisdiction.

The only substantial differences from other states—(1) related to permanent residents and their rights. (2) The non-applicability of emergency provision on the ground of “internal disturbance” without the concurrence of the state.

Article-370 cannot be revoked unilaterally, revoked only if a new Constituent Assembly of J&K is convened and willingly to recommend its revocation.

Parliament has the power to amend the Constitution to change 370’s provision, but this could be subject to judicial review.

Future Prospects-

1. It has been a tendency whatever party in Delhi and Kashmir parties are running away from debate. It should not be treated as suit and scoot policy.

2. It should be debated and discussed on more serious note eventually consensus and trust matters in political democracy.

3. Its time to review from both the Sides (union and j&k)—in last 66 years what has been net balance sheet of the gains and losses to the J&K and the Union of India.

4. The People who was or are in the Power only there vested interested have been served by this provision.

3. The Indian party system is passing through a phase of transition which looks to be full of contradictions and paradoxes.” Discuss.

Hints:

There are several factors which have undergone a seachange in recent years and most important of them are, leadership selection or change, ideological stand-point, etc.

The party system in India has taken a strong change in recent years, this was particularly evident, when in most political parties, with the exception of BJP, the second or third generation of the founder is still ruling
the party. In other words, political power has become like wealth, which passes on to the successor, which apart from exception belongs to the family of ideological founder of the party.

There were large number of smaller regional and national parties that came to prominence in years since and they were against the dynasty politics initially, however, now in most of them second generation leadership has come up with a reckoning that dynasty politics is perhaps going to last much more.

Ideological standpoints have strongly diluted, for example, a party which was initially meant to be representative of backward classes, gave more tickets to upper castes in past elections. Similarly in most cases, the ideology has diluted so much that support or opposition to issues has become a matter of political gain, rather than ideological preference.

Another big change is decisive verdicts in elections, which has affected the fortunes of many smaller players and independent candidates. Regional Parties, whose, major plank of contesting Lok Sabha elections with huge resources was not, because they could form government, but because they could gain from political horse-trading later on, in case of fractured mandate. Now with decisive mandates in recent elections, they have lost their power significantly.

Another change is Communication strategy and Social media such as, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and political blogs have changed every aspect of communication in modern Indian politics. This also has connected Indian youth to the politics.

4. Exercise of CAG’s powers in relation to the accounts of the Union and the States is derived from Article 149 of the Indian Constitution. Discuss whether audit of the Government’s Policy implementation could amount to overstepping its own (CAG) jurisdiction.

Hints:

The CAG is the constitutional institute through which the accountability of the Government and other public authorities— all those who spend public money— to Parliament and State legislatures and through them to the people is ensured.

The executive is answerable to Parliament and to the people for all its decisions, but the answerability is enforced through the CAG where it involves finance and account.

1. If the CAG were merely an auditor, why should DR. B.R. Ambedkar, during debate in Constituent Assembly, describe The CAG as the most important functionary in the constitution, more important than even Judiciary?

2. The point is-CAG is bound by his oath of the office to uphold the constitution; can he refrain from commenting on something that prima facie seems unconstitutional? If the Government is to formulating a policy that selectively confers benefits from public fund on an individual or group to the exclusion of others on no status grounds/ on grounds which seems questionable, Is it not the duty to point out?

3. As India emerging as a major hub of economic activities, Government policies are taking wider place for fulfilling the aspiration of development goals. Therefore, it is quite natural that while implementing policies there may be some losses occur so commenting on it by CAG, shall not be considered as overstepping its own jurisdiction, but it’s a check and balance, which should be taken as rational economic thinking on cost-benefit analysis.

4. If the above understanding is correct, then various activities that the CAG has been undertaking such as propriety, performance evaluations, and so on, are clearly well within its ambit.

5. It is necessary that audit reports be more widely known and discussed. The people have a right to know their concerns. For example The CWG, 2G and PPP model controversies reports are now better known than before; this is a good development.

Parliament votes funds to the Executive and those funds have to be accounted for. However, answerability is more than that: it also means exercising prudence, avoiding waste, not incurring infructuous expenditure, showing results for moneys spent, and achieving those results at least cost. If the CAG is our prime accountability-ensuring institution, that institution must go into all these matters.
5. **Discuss each adjective attached to the word 'Republic' in the preamble. Are they defendable in the present circumstances?**

**Hints:**

THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, PREAMBLE- Starts with,

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having

Solemnly resolved to constitute India into a

**SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

**SOVEREIGN**—India is neither a dependency nor a dominion of any other nation. It is an Independent state. In the present times, the term ‘sovereignty’ may be losing rigid connotations of “supreme and absolute power acknowledging no superior” -no modern state can be considered sovereign in that sense. However, through the words of the Preamble, what is sought to be established is the oneness of the people of India (not the people of different states but of one nation), that the sovereignty vests in the collectivity, and the that the people of India are not subordinate to any external authority. With the enactment of the Constitution India was no longer a ‘dominion’ it was a ‘republic’.

**SOCIALIST**—The founding father did not want the constitution to be wedded to any particular political ideology or ism or to be limited by any economic doctrine. it was the constitution (42nd amendment,1976) that introduction this word socialist to qualify our Republic. Socialism to mean “free forms of exploitation-social, economic and political.” In limited sense It is difficult to define. As the supreme court says,’ Democratic socialism aims to end poverty, ignorance, disease and inequality of opportunity. Indian socialism is a blend of Marxism and Gandhism, leaning heavily towards gandhian socialism’.

**SECULAR**—This term ‘secular’ too was added by the 42nd amendments of 1976. A secular state deals with the individual as a citizen irrespective of his religion, is not connected to particular religion nor does it sees to promote or interfere with religion. Secular state must have nothing to do with religious affairs except when their management involves crime, fraud or becomes a threat to unity and integrity of the state.

**DEMOCRATIC**—The Constitution provides for representative parliamentary democracy under which the executive is responsible to the legislature for all its policies and action. universal adult franchise, periodic election, rule of law, independent of judiciary, and absence of discrimination on certain ground. in broader sense it includes not only political democracy but social and economic too.

DR. Ambedkar remarked, “Parliamentary democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of its social democracy. What does social democracy means? It means a way of life which recognize liberty, equality and fraternity.”

Present status on defendability-

The Indian constitution the right to equality to all person and says that no citizen can be discriminated on the ground of race, race caste, gender and place of birth. Usually the record of India, when it comes to political rights is very good among the emerging nations.

The judiciary plays an important role in overseeing the implementation of constitutional guarantees.

The developments in India, particularly give me confidence that in the new millennium, we will not face the World empty-handed whether in terms of civilization attainments or economic strength.

We need to feel proud, not in narrow nationalistic sense, which in itself is significant but in wider sense of values that the constitution provided to their citizen, fraternity, tolerance for other point of view, spiritual quest and respect for cultural diversity.

6. **What was held in the Coelho case? In this context, can you say that judicial review is of key importance amongst the basic features of the Constitution?**

**Hints:**

- In the case, a 9 member bench of SC argued that all amendments to the constitution made on or after 1973 by with the 9th schedule has been amended by inclusion of various laws therein shall have to be
tested on the touchstone of the basic structure of the constitution. Further, after is placed in the 9th schedule, its validity has to be tasted on the touchstone of the basic structure doctrine.

- The bench held that judicial review of laws to judge its constitutionality and fundamental rights are the part of the basic structure of the constitution. Since no law should violate the basic structure as per the Keshavananda Bharati case, any law/act put under the ninth schedule are thus, not immune from judicial review.

- It says that the objective behind Article 31-B is to remove difficulties and not to wipe out judicial review. Therefore every amendment to the constitution whether it is in the form of amendment of any article or amendment by insertion of an article in 9th schedule, has to be tasted by reference to the basic structure.

- Laws included in 9th schedule do not become part the constitution, because they derived their validity on account of the exercise undertaken by parliament to include them in 9th schedule and that has to be tasted every time.

- It questions that can parliament increase the amending power by amending Article-386 but to what extent. Is it not possible that the ultimate power of amendment, destroy damage the fundamentals of constitution.

- Article 368, does not vest such a power in parliament. It cannot lift all restriction placed on amending power. It is not unlimited. The power of amendment has to be compatible with the limits on the power of amendment. (Kesvananda Bharti case)

- Parliament has power to amend the provision of PART 3 to abridge or take away fundamental rights but subject to limitation of the basic structure doctrine.

- The golden triangle of article. 14, 19, and 21 as it stand for equality and rule of law, along with article. 15, 20, and 32, etc clearly from part of the basic structure and cannot be abrogated.

- Of course, judicial review is the cornerstone phenomenon which protects itself first to protect the essence of constitution as a basic structure doctrine. Thus, full judicial review is an integral part of the constitutional scheme and no law can dilute its powers.


Hints:

Government of India Act, 1935 mark a point of no return in the history of constitutional development in India. The Constitution of India with or without some modification adopted some important provisions from this 1935 Act,

- As it provides the establishment of All India federation including all provinces at that time under the paramountcy of the British Crown, Our Constitution of India provides the same mechanism under the President of India.

- The Act derived the powers between the Centre and units in terms of 3 lists—federal, provincial, and the Concurrent List as we adopted the same manner as Union, State and Concurrent List.

- This act introduced Responsible Government, which is same in our Constitution also. The Concept of Dyarchy, the type of Government, which was established in the provinces by the Act of 1935, it remains same in the constitution of India, Provinces were made autonomous in their respective subject. Out states are autonomous too now by the authority under constitution.

- It provides a Federal Court at Delhi. Now the Supreme Court of India is established under Constitution which has the same power and functions as of Federal Court.

- The establishment of RBI under this Act, it remains same in Independent India to control regarding monetary policy and currency creation.

- It introduced bicameralism which yet to be continued in many of the state.

- The Concept of Union Public Service Commission and State service commission also derived from this law.
Thus, while the 1935 act had some federal features, federalism in true spirit was established later-on, only with the passing of constitution.

8. What is a quasi-judicial body? Explain with the help of concrete examples.

Hints:
- A quasi-judicial body is an entity which has powers and procedures resembling those of a court of law or judge, and which is obliged to objectively determine facts and draw conclusions from them so as to provide the basis of an official action. Such actions are able to remedy a situation or impose legal penalties, and may affect the legal rights, duties or privileges of specific parties.
- These organizations generally have authorities of settlement in matters like breach of discipline, conduct rules, and trust in the matters of money or otherwise. Their powers are usually limited to a particular area of expertise, such as financial markets, employment laws, public standards, immigration, or regulation.
- Some of the quasi judicial bodies in India are National Human Rights Commission; State Human Rights Commission; Central Information Commission; National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, etc.

9. Professor Amartya Sen has advocated important reforms in the realms of primary education and primary health care. What are your suggestions to improve their status and performance?

Hints:
According to the United Nations, education is a right to which all human beings are entitled. Since 2000, the UN has been promoting the Millennium Development Goal to achieve free universal primary education for all, regardless of gender, by 2015.

India is the only country in the world which is trying to become a global economic power with an uneducated and unhealthy labour force.

Prof. Sen regretted that primary education had insufficient coverage; there were a huge number of out-of-school children and the quality of education was low. “India needs to widen its education base radically.

He has made a strong case for the need for a radical reform in primary school curriculum. This would reduce the curriculum overload in primary education in the country, making “home tasks redundant and private tuition unnecessary”.

Interpreting Article 21 of the constitution, Supreme Court has brought ‘Right to health’ and ‘right to primary education’ (21A) under fundamental rights. So there’s no reason to believe that health care is lesser important that these things. There should be minimum standard preventive, curative, diagnostic and emergency care for everyone.

The health status of the people in the country is an important flag-post to evaluate the success of the state policy. Health of the individual impacts the growth of the nation in a very material sense. It has been estimated that the differences in the growth performance of many countries can be attributed to the health status of the people.

The point is that, need to improve school education is vital, first because the need to have a properly school educated workforce is urgent and second because school education is the base for higher education and must be put into proper shape before we go about increasing enrolment in higher education.

It is a matter of common knowledge that primary education acts as a resource for secondary education, which in turn acts as a resource for higher education. Thus, all the three sectors create the final demand for and output of education for the country as a whole.

1. Following the Constitutional commitment to education, the Government aids schools financially. Only 80 percent of the schools in the country take this aid. By their own choice the remaining 20 percent remain unaided Government aided schools, serving the low and middle income population.

2. The Centre bears only one fourth of the total government spending on education, whereas the rest three-fourth of the spending comes from the State Governments. Hence, the Government needs to take a larger responsibility towards provisioning of financial resources for education.

Hints: UPSC Mains Paper - 2
3. The problems of utilization of the funds arising from procedural and institutional bottlenecks, deficiencies in decentralized planning and systemic weaknesses -as the main obstacles. So there is need to proper utilization of funds.

4. Drawing inspiration from the Yashpal Committee Report, it seeks to make learning more meaningful and enjoyable by relating formal education to the lived world of the children.

5. Poverty is the major factor for a very high drop-out of girls at primary and secondary levels.

6. Need to assess the appropriate role of the private and public sectors in the context of increased government financial contributions to the health sector.

7. The organization of primary care and hospital care needs improvement.

8. Expanding the reach of health services to rural and remote areas is hindered by the limited availability of providers there.

9. Primary health care (PHC) is an essential part of health care and its main principles are equity, health promotion and disease prevention, community participation, appropriate health technology and multi-sectoral approach. Organizational and management key elements of PHC are strategic management, decentralization, coordination and development of strategic systems.

The empowered, educated, skilled and highly productive workforce of 700 million Indians including 200 university graduates, in 2020 and industries worldwide competing to hire them-this is what India dreams to be at 75- post-independence.

The development of millions of youth in such a short span of time is astounding in its scale. Indian Government is taking proactive steps to fill skill gaps in order to leverage its position as a supplier of skilled workforce to the aging world. Effective implementation of existing policies for skill development, fundamental education reforms across elementary, secondary and higher education, strong interface between educators and employers, public private partnership and international collaborations can lead nation to become superpower.

10. "In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal." Critically examine this statement.

Hints:

The concept of ‘non-state actors’ refers to “a wide range of non-governmental development actors like civil society in all its diversity, economic and social partners, including trade union organizations and the private sector”.

Today, non-state actors are actively engaged in community mobilization, economic development and societal transformation. They work at international, national and local levels and play different roles like capacity building, asset creation, representation, lobbying, advocacy, service delivery etc. These organizations and institutions have taken many forms based on their goals and purpose of involvement in the developmental process as described in the definition above. Essentially, they are instruments of people’s action and the means of protecting and promoting vital rights of citizens.

The role of governance in India has remained confined to “steel frame” which carried colonial legacy. In policy formation, execution, awareness generation the role of non-state actors is important due to its understanding of ground realities but we see many instances where the role of non-state actors has remained marginal such as:

1. In policy formulation the wide opinion of stakeholders is necessary but government follows top-down approach.

2. In execution of government schemes, programs participation of local people, NGOs is important but they have given very limited role.

3. Non-state actors are fundamental agents in helping to achieve both national and international development goals, such as those around climate change. This contribute significantly towards filling the greenhouse gas emissions gap left by non-ambitious or poorly executed national climate policies.

Non-State Actors (NSA’s) continue to play a crucial role in the democratic process of any country. Civil society movements can significantly influence the government policies as well as social attitude. It must perform some roles to maintain and strengthen the democracy. They are:

Hints: UPSC Mains Paper - 2
• Non-state actors empower the citizens about their rights and duties and the necessity of them. It also encourages the traditionally excluded groups such as women, dalits and minorities to utilize their rights and the access to power.

• Civil society checks the political abuses and violations of law. An empowered non-state actor will be able to hold the state accountable in case of abuse of political power.

• Conflicts are not very uncommon in the democratic institutions constituting wide range of interests. A well established civil society mitigates the main differences and will help state in ensuring that the best interests are addressed.

• Non-state actors promote the democratic attributes amongst its citizens such as tolerance, willingness to compromise and respect for the conflicting views.

• It allows political parties and other organizations to represent their interests. This improves the quality of democracy.

• Without the support of public and the legislature, political and economic reforms cannot succeed. Civil society performs this role and paves way for reforms.

• If the state fails to represent the society’s best interests and if its interests are narrow and stagnant, non-state actors help in identifying and training the new political leaders to revitalize their government.

• Mechanism like social auditing should be promoted which will improve the participation of people in government.

• In many states, non-partisan volunteer organizations monitored elections to check the legitimacy of the process and the result. This enhances public trust in the government.

• NGOs like Akshay Patra, SEWA has played important role in marginalized society. Thus, government should regulate properly and accredited such NGOs which will benefit society.

By doing its duties, civil society can represent citizen interests while forming policies and can make their society more democratic. However, state should give fundamental liberties to its citizens, because civil society can function well in the democratic institutions. A non-state actor that is civil society plays an important role in building and maintaining the democracy.

11. "Effectiveness of the government system at various levels and people's participation in the governance system are inter-dependent." Discuss their relationship with each other in context of India.

Hints:

The basic objective of government is to evolve a system of democratic decentralization and devolution with a view to ensuring rapid socio-economic progress and speedier and inexpensive justice.

Effective Governance is defined to include pro-people agenda’s, People’s participation, women empowerment, transparency, equal opportunity to youth. It includes economically and socially weaker section of society in decision making. It emphasizes in providing support to small businesses to strengthen the economy.

The essence of effective governance is making an impact of the lives of the people through effective utilization of government services, policies and regulation of the private sector through transparent procedures for optimum impact.

Effective governance is comprehensive governance mechanism encompassing in itself inclusive growth and development of disparaged sections, citizen participation in decision making, women empowerment and equitable opportunity to all.

India’s middle class and neo-middle class is unique in terms of size and purchasing power. Policy making needs to focus on this economically vibrant section, which included almost all the subgroups of sections that completes the idea of Effective Governance.

India is a Participatory democratic country. The Indian Constitution believes in the doctrine of separation of power as basic structure of Constitution. The Constitution ensures that people’s participation at various levels is a fundamental for good governance.
According to father of nation, M. Gandhi, self-Government is better than even good Governance. Unless self-government is ensured by clear devolution of power from the centre to the periphery, people are prevented from participation in Governance.

By the 73rd & 74th Constitutional amendment act our Constitution assured the people’s participation at various levels in governance. Being a participatory democracy it regards people's political participation is basic principle for effective governance.

A strong sense of public duty comes from empowerment. People’s attitude changes from one of obedience to authority to active participation in governance. A citizen as a political and social unit could alone take responsibility for transformation of the state of the society.

It encourages an active sense of public duty, replacing emphasis from authority and obedience to active participation. The system can deliver the goods through devolution, decentralization and democratization, thereby narrowing the gap between the base of the polity and its super-structure.

Government effectiveness captures perceptions of the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government’s commitment to such policies which is interpreted as a design of social inclusion confined by people's participation.

Thus, the goal of inclusive growth, as envisaged by the government cannot be achieved without the active participation and effectiveness of government should be considered as integral to the governance of the country.

12. In the integrity index of Transparency International, India stands very low. Discuss briefly the legal, political, economic, social and cultural factors that have caused the decline of public morality in India.

Hints:

Corruption is widespread in India. India was placed at 76th position out of 168 countries with a score of 38 out of a possible 100 in Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index 2015. Corruption has taken the role of a pervasive aspect of Indian Politics and Bureaucracy.

Corruption is a global phenomenon and it is omnipotent. It has progressively increased and is now rampant in our society. Corruption in India has wings, not wheels. As the nation grows, the corrupt also grow to invent new methods of cheating the government and public. The causes of corruption are many and complex. The following are some other causes of corruption:

- **Socio-Cultural:**
  1. The long history of corrupt practices from ancient time which was strengthened during Mughal and British time in form of Baksheesh and gifts etc.
  2. Tolerance of people's towards corruption, complete lack of intense public outcry against corruption and the absence of a strong public forum to oppose corruption allow corruption to rein our people.
  3. Most Indians will immediately recognize facilitative corruption from their regular interaction with the state machinery.

    Ex. officials demanding bribes to perform or expedite the basic functions of their job, like issuing passports or ration cards

- **Political:**
  1. Emergence of political elite which believes in interest oriented rather than nation oriented programs and policies.
  2. Inadequate regulation of political finance
  3. Corruption is caused as well as increased because of the change in the value system and ethical qualities of men who administer
4. Election time is a time when corruption is at its peak. Big industrialists fund politicians to meet high cost of election and ultimately to seek personal favor. Bribery to politicians buys influences and bribery by politicians buys votes. In order to get elected, politicians bribe poor, illiterate people.

5. Amoral politics, self-aggrandizement, disregard of the constitutional norms in the pursuit of power, political survival at any cost is other main cause of corruption.

• Legal:
1. The lack of enforcement capacity and regulatory complexity are deep causes, or foundational characteristics of India’s institutions.
2. Complex laws and procedures deter common people from seeking help from the Government.
3. Cumbersome and dilatory administrative procedures and practices are other major causes of corruption in India.
4. Many laws and rules have become obsolete and breeds corruption, long delay in judicial proceedings and less severity of punishment, multiple investigative agencies with overlapping jurisdiction such as Lokpal, CVC, CAG etc
5. Those in hierarchy vested with disciplinary powers shirk their duties and so unwillingness to use their powers against corrupt practices.
6. Collusive corruption involves bribes paid to circumvent regulations, kickbacks from government procurement, and bribes paid to illegitimately obtain government contracts or licenses.

• Economical:
1. Artificial scarcity created by people with malevolent intention wrecks the fabrics of the economy.
2. Shortcomings in public sector recruitment and postings are more proximate offshoots of India’s institutional infirmities.
3. Vast size of population coupled with widespread illiteracy and the poor economic infrastructure lead to endemic corruption in public life.
4. Extractive corruption comprises diverse crimes, from embezzlement and harassment bribery to shirking and simply not showing up to work.
5. In a highly inflationary economy, low salaries of government officials compel them to resort to corruption. Graduates from Indian institutes of management with no experience draw a far handsome salary than what government secretaries draw.

Endemic and deep rooted corruption is a major factor for most social and political ills. It is a serious threat not just too sustainable economic growth, but also to the sociopolitical fabric of the country.

Jose Ugaz, the chairman of Berlin-based Transparency International argued that “the Corruption can be beaten if we work together. To stamp out the abuse of power, bribery and shed light on secret deals, citizens must together tell their governments they have had enough.”

13. Has the Indian governmental system responded adequately to the demands of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization started in 1991? What can the government do to be responsive to this important change?

Hints:
The 1991 economic crisis, essentially a balance of payments problem, is generally seen as the overriding factor that led to the dismantling of the license/quota raj, but that is only partly true. The lacunae of the industrial and trade policies were well documented both within and outside the government. Contrary to the perception of reforms being foisted on the government by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), these reforms were entirely “made in India”. Following are the some areas where government responded adequately:

1. Private sector has excelled & created world class facility but government services remain poor.
2. The government focused more on financial reforms but no reforms in administration like police, education, judicial, labour, etc. they remain substandard

3. New controls & regulations have come up which further lead to resources-Raj, still government have a control in allocating resources, pricing for gases, etc.

4. There are thousands of project which are stuck in red tapism, the lack of clarity over the reservation of industries from deregulation

5. Infrastructural development is still below expectation, Indian industries are still suffering from lack of competitiveness

6. Political resistance to reform was strong and that was reflected in the official recommendations, if not the analysis

7. The growth is not inclusive there are many inequalities & unbalanced regional growth and it remained confined to pockets of few.

8. Subsidies are not well targeted and profit to usurped by non deserving people

9. Disturbed the social fabric of society by transformed it into a profit based existence from trust based one. More work pressures and other aspects like urban migrations divided families and reduced social responsibilities.

10. International level organizations like WTO, IMFs rules & regulations of policies are in favor of developed world. This showed that India’s diplomatic failure in achieving required status.

In our zeal and enthusiasm of reaping benefits from these economic reforms, we need to keep in mind that still there is a part of population which is living under abject poverty in the country. We need to bring them in sync and further integrate them with these reforms. For tackling this government can focus on following areas:

- Creation of opportunities for skill development/formation of the unemployed and putting more focus on unorganized sector of the economy. For this government initiated programs like skill India, Make in India.

- Focus needs to be shifted towards social sector like irrigation, rural electrification, better communication facilities in villages, education. Government tackling this issue with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan, Mid-day meal Scheme and health NRHM, National Sanitation Campaign.

- Employment opportunities for the masses providing livelihood, means of income, increasing purchasing power to reduce absolute poverty levels. This problem can be curbed with schemes like MNREGA, UDAAN, etc.

- Increase agro-based industries in the country. For this government started initiatives like Make in India, Start up India, Stand up India, etc.

- Labour reforms and increase in their wages as the labour laws were framed much before independence and today’s scenario has changed drastically.

The reform process is still continuous. For success of reforms need wider popular acceptance which will ensure all stake holders pulled together in the same direction for ensuring India’s emergence as the leader of the 3rd world & fastest growing economy.

14. "Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have hampered the process of socio-economic development in India." Comment.

Hints:

Sardar Patel famously called the Indian Administrative Service the “steel frame” of India’s government machinery. He, and many others, viewed the IAS as the solid foundation upon which the rest of the bureaucracy rested, a bastion of the nation’s best and brightest providing unfailing support to others in government.
To this day, even with vastly increased opportunities in the private sector, the IAS continues to attract India’s best and brightest. Yet, despite the exceptional talent within the IAS, the institution no longer serves the greater interest of the country. Instead, there are reasons to believe that it might be hampering the country’s development.

1. Bureaucracy refers to a hierarchical organization in which functions and powers are divided as per formal rules and regulations. There is a hierarchy system and the lower ones are working under the upper management.

2. Officials remain unattached and are only concerned with their job without becoming personally involved. The British, of course, designed ICS and the rest of the government machinery around it with the explicit goal of allowing a very small number of men to control a very large population. To this end, they concentrated all power and authority in the hands of these very few men with the rest of government acting as a support structure.

3. Being a permanent executive not directly responsible to the popular demands and ensuring the system to work in a proper manner, irrespective of the elections results is seen as a prime work. Success of the schemes/initiatives depends upon the proper implementation on the ground level, and the implementation part rests with the bureaucrats.

4. The local political interference and the cold-war btw the local political representatives and the coveted administrator are not new, and it also gives wrong signal to the public in general when such things come in open.

5. Bureaucracy encourages the evil work of government into a number of isolated and self dependent sections each pursuing its own needs without any adequate correlation with the rest.

6. The discretionary power which rests in the hand of the bureaucrats makes him look like the sole authority in the eyes of common masses. Such powers have been used by the ranks very fruitfully also as well as selfishly. So, it was referred as steel frame means whatever the mortar comes off, the structure and working of system will not get changed for the disadvantages of the people.

7. In recent times the red-tapism and policy paralysis has been pointed out by the Government. As well as Civil society as a cause of non-decisiveness and lack of works visible on the ground. Officials are bound by rules and these rules regulate the office conduct. Rules become more important at times than the goal of the organization leading to red tapism.

8. The Planning Commission has highlighted how the short tenures of civil servants have led to a far less effective management system for civil servants in India than in China. Very often, it leads to the elevation of ineffective civil servants in key administrative positions. This happens because pliant bureaucrats are much more acceptable to the political executive even if the effects of such postings are positively harmful for governance.

It is a mix of both being a steel frame and caged, former because it steel enjoys the immunity and discretionary power. It has been provided the constitutional immunity as well and it works joining the shoulder with shoulder of the other wings of the “state”. It is caged because everything where it is rule of law is bounded by that cage, even in the case where other cages are not there.

Bureaucracy loves tradition and stands for conservatism which develops a negative psychology that breeds non-transparency and stoppage to information.

Arvind Panagariya, economic advisor of PM, Professor of economics and an expert on the Indian civil service has two sensible suggestions for improvement of bureaucracy:

- More top positions in government should be opened up to competition from candidates outside the IAS. At a minimum, all top secretary level positions should be opened up to competition from at least the state services, if not to outside candidates. In any democracy, ministers should be allowed to choose their top deputies. Going further and opening up all positions at the joint secretary level is also worth considering.

- Specialization should be encouraged because today Indian bureaucrats must oversee the administration of a vastly complicated government apparatus and regulate an equally complicated private sector. In this context, specialized skills are an absolute necessity for an effective civil service.
Lloyd George called it “the steel frame on which the whole structure of our government and of our administration in India rests”, and the IAS has kept the steel frame pretty much intact.

15. Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation.

Hints:

India is a young nation; children constitute 39 per cent of the country’s population (Census 2011). Recognized by policy-makers as a supreme national asset, children deserve the best in national investment, for their survival, good heath, development opportunity, security and dignity.

The Constitution of India provides that the State shall direct its policy towards ensuring “that childhood is protected from exploitation and moral and material abandonment.”

This directive clearly positions children as deserving of the highest priority in national realization of the Fundamental Rights and the special provisions for those most vulnerable to discrimination and exclusion.

The adoption of the National Policy for Children (NPC) in 1974 was the first such major comprehensive initiative taken by the government.

The National Policy for Children, 2013 aims to protect and encourage the rights of the children to survival, health & nutrition; education & development; protection & participation for focused attention. It adheres to the Constitutional mandate and guiding principles of UN CRC and reflects a paradigm shift from a “need-based” to a “rights-based” approach. The Policy recognizes every person below the age of eighteen years as a child and covers all children within the territory and jurisdiction of the country.

It emphasizes that the State is committed to take affirmative measures to promote equal opportunities for all children, and to enable all children in its jurisdiction to exercise all the constitutional rights.

The salient features of the children's policy include the following:

1. Ensure equitable access to comprehensive and essential preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative health care of the highest standard, for all children before, during and after birth, and throughout the period of their growth and development.

2. Secure the right of every child to learning, knowledge, education, and development opportunity, with due regard for special needs, through access, provision and promotion of required environment, information, infrastructure, services and supports, for the development of the child’s fullest potential.

3. Create a caring, protective and safe environment for all children, to reduce their vulnerability in all situations and to keep them safe at all places, especially public spaces.

4. Enable children to be actively involved in their own development and in all matters concerning and affecting them.

5. It is the first policy document in India that specifically highlights “disability” as a ground for discrimination that must be countered.

Though some suggestions of the civil society did not make it to the final draft, still, these provisions are a good reflection of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which emphasizes the rights of children with disabilities to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, on an equal basis with other children. Though it is yet to be seen how this translates into real practice, still it gives the hope that children in our country can look forward to a future without discrimination.

16. "Demographic Dividend in India will remain only theoretical unless our manpower becomes more educated, aware, skilled and creative." What measures have been taken by the government to enhance the capacity of our population to be more productive and employable?

Hints:

With one of the youngest populations in the world and a large pool of young English-speaking people, population demographics favor India. By 2022, the average Indian's age would be 29, compared to 37 for China and the US, and 45 for Western Europe.
When the proportion of working people in the total population is high which indicates that more people have the potential to be productive and contribute to growth of the economy, called demographic dividend. India has the potential not only to meet its own manpower needs but it can also cater to the manpower demand of other nations.

Despite a vast majority of population in the productive age group, India has not been able to realize its demographic dividend since a good amount of working population are not employable and most industries are currently struggling with scarcity of skilled workforce.

Economic growth in India has, in the last few years, picked up considerable momentum with services and, recently, the manufacturing sector showing a great deal of buoyancy. While the jury is out on whether the country can sustain a GDP growth of 9% per annum, it is generally agreed that much greater attention would have to be paid to the area of skill development.

According to survey of Labour Bureau, “trend of employment generation in India has been declining. In 2015, employment generated in core industries was only 1.3 lakh jobs & it is the lowest jobs generation in last 6 years.”

There has been a lot of talk, not all of it well informed, about India’s becoming a Knowledge Power but, given our comparatively young population, we have a long way to go before we realize our full potential.

Countries with high skill capital tend to be prosperous from the perspectives of both GDP and per capita income. Higher national prosperity also manifests in better quality of life for citizens. As Indian economy evolves from being commodity-centric to knowledge-centric, growth becomes increasingly dependent on the availability of skills.

However, skills have to be marketable and relevant, resulting in economic value, otherwise there may be abundance of skilled people with sub-optimal employment, resulting in the ‘skilled unemployed’ conundrum. Thus, government takes following steps to enhance the capacity of peoples to become employable:

1. The government has been emphasizing on providing vocational education and training to the workforce. It formulated the National Policy on Skill Development and has set a target for providing skills to 500 million people by 2022. Providing a mechanism to acquire skills, empowering the disadvantaged sections of the society with skilling opportunities, and creating a skill growth program for continuous improvement is the surest way of achieving inclusive and sustainable growth.

2. The government has also professed skill development as a national priority over the next 10 years. The 11th Five-Year Plan had a detailed road-map for skill development and favored the formation of Skill Development Missions, both at the state and national levels. In addition, the government aims to set up 1,500 new ITIs and 5,000 skill development centers across the country as well a National Vocational Qualification Framework (NVQF) for affiliations and accreditation in vocational, educational and training systems.

3. The National Skill Development Mission aims to impart employment-oriented vocational training to 8 crore people over the next five years by working with State governments/State Skill Missions and incorporating the private sector through PPPs and for profit vocational training and NGOs. Basic education is also an important input for enhancing human capital.

4. PMKVY is a unique initiative of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship where it focuses on industry relevant training & certifications for Indian youth so that they can have better career opportunities.

5. DDUGKY is a special placement linked scheme for poor rural youth. Implemented through accredited training providers, the scheme focuses on the placement of at least 75% of the youth. It focuses on poverty alleviation of rural youth through its market-led placement initiative.

6. Udaan is a initiative for addressing the economic issues in J&K that is based on developing the human capital of the region and helping the youth getting gainfully employed

7. The Indian government has embarked on the right path with initiatives like Skill India, Ease of Doing Business, Smart Cities and Industrial Corridors to facilitate demographic dividends to flow through.”
In order to reap the benefits of demographic dividend there is need to increase productivity of work force. Hence, the workforce needs to be educated, equipped with required skills and healthy. The dreams of huge income flow and resultant economic growth due to demographic dividend could be realized only when we inculcate the required skills in the work force to make it as competent as its counterparts in the developed world.

If India’s working-age population, its so-called demographic dividend, is productively employed, India’s economic growth prospects will brighten.

17. "The broader aims and objectives of WTO are to manage and promote international trade in the era of globalization. But the Doha round of negotiations seem doomed due to differences between the developed and the developing countries." Discuss in the Indian perspective.

Hints:

• WTO is a multilateral platform that allows smaller and developing countries to make concerted efforts at integrating trade and development by allowing these countries to negotiate international trade issues in blocks and together withstand the relentless demand of developed countries to open their markets without reciprocal benefits.

• The goal of any trade talks is to make it easier for goods and services to be bought and sold across national borders.

• The basic objectives of the Doha round was to lower trade barriers around the world, and thus facilitate increased global trade.

• However the progress in negotiations stalled due to issue between developed and developing nations over agriculture, industrial tariffs and non-tariff barriers, services, and trade remedies.

The reality was while Doha was a development agenda, domestic agriculture and industry interests in the U.S. (and in other developed countries) showed no appetite for making necessary concessions. Instead, the game moved towards ensuring that when emerging economies were showing signs of rapid growth, developed countries did not lose the lead.

It was time to demand a more enduring value for technology and IPR. Also Enforcement of higher environment and labour standards was sought to be made a norm even on a trade platform. More assured access for trade and investment was demanded with firm commitments about reform.

Developed countries should work on FTA’s such that it doesn’t weaken the relevance of other multilateral organisations or grouping of developing and also least developed countries.

• Doha ministerial Conference of WTO was one such instance where developed nation wanted to further their domestic interest and thus introduced subsidies under Green Box, Blue Box and Amber Box. To highlight the discrepancy, US and Europe's subsidy to their farmers lies in Green Box to the extent of 90% whereas for India the ratio is 42%. Though under WTO Green Box does not come under monitoring, developing nations subsidies are monitored as they fall under other categories.

• This when contested developing nation of Special Product and Special Safeguard Measures. Though SP was adopted in HK Conference 2005, SSM (which deals with raising import duties in case of excessive hike in import volumes and resultant dip in prices) has not seen the light of the day.

• India negotiated and secured a re-affirmative Ministerial Decision on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes honouring both the Bali Ministerial and General Council Decisions. The decision commits Members to engage constructively in finding a permanent solution to this issue.

• India negotiated a Ministerial Decision on another very important issue which recognizes that developing countries will have the right to have recourse to an agricultural Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) as envisaged in the Doha mandate. Members will continue to negotiate the mechanism in dedicated sessions of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session. The WTO General Council has been mandated to regularly review the progress of these negotiations.

• Members also agreed to the elimination of agricultural export subsidies subject to the preservation of special and differential treatment for developing countries such as a longer phase-out period for transportation and marketing subsidies for exporting agricultural products.
• The Ministerial Decision also contains disciplines to ensure that other export policies are not used as a disguised form of subsidies. These disciplines include terms to limit the benefits of financing support to agriculture exporters, rules on state enterprises engaging in agriculture trade, and disciplines to ensure that food aid does not negatively affect domestic production. Developing countries have been given a longer time to implement these rules.

• Ministerial decision extends the relevant provision to prevent 'evergreening' of patents in the pharmaceuticals sector. This decision would help in maintaining affordable as well as accessible supply of generic medicines.

• India supported outcomes on issues of interest to LDCs including enhanced preferential rules of origin for LDCs and preferential treatment for LDC services providers. India already provides substantial preferences in these areas to LDCs.

• Rule of fishery subsidy Like India, several other countries had strong reservations on this issue due to the lack of clarity. This was in tune with India's position. There was no outcome in this area of the negotiations. A group of 53 WTO members, including both developed and developing countries, also agreed on a timetable for implementing a deal to eliminate tariffs on 201 Information Technology products. Duty-free market access to the markets of the members eliminating tariffs on these products will be available to all WTO members. Though not a party to the Agreement, its benefits will also be available to India.

• Given the continuation of Development round agenda would only hurt Developed nations interest as they would loose market for their agriculture products they are insisting on dropping the agenda all together itself. Moreover, subsidies given to the farmers in developed world (300-400%) are also trade distortionary by its very nature. However they are unwilling to concede to this demand as well as it would hurt their interest. Permanent solution to food stockholding by government is another loose end which developed nation are reluctant to tie even when the major beneficiaries are poor.

• Having nothing to gain and only to concede in Doha development round, they are pushing hard to move to bring in a 'new' agenda which involves Labour norms, environmental standards, E-commerce, global value chain among others. Though these issues have their own International fora like ILO and UNFCCC, the insistence to include them in WTO is primarily to harmonize (lower) them worldwide to suit their interest and thus being aggressively pursued.

• However, G33 group including India and China are pushing to not concede and stick to the already unresolved issues of Doha round as the lives of millions of farmers are at stake.

• India and China provide that 'makeshift bat' to developing nations and are thus, viewed as 'obstructionist' by Developed world and thus there are attempts to isolate them.

• In this perceptive of geopolitics aimed at furthering economic interests it is important that all the nations unite against the bullying ones and don't give up on their legitimate right to play.

• India offer proposals of our own that further our interests as, offering little in exchange while asking a lot of others is a sure way of becoming a marginal player with negligible influence on the outcome of negotiations. Since unilaterally opening our markets to international competition is in our own interest regardless of whether our access to markets of others is enhanced, getting such enhanced access in return in negotiations is a bonus. India's defensive posture is longstanding.

• Besides articulating a coherent position, India needs to remove the domestic constraints on our international competitiveness and attractiveness to foreign capital, and improve our domestic investment climate.

• The need to bring down India's fiscal deficits to manageable levels, address festering problems in our energy, transport and telecommunications infrastructures, and remove legal obstacles to exit from unprofitable activities and to smoothly functioning labour markets.

• India steps towards a firm future date for making the rupee convertible on capital account and immediately undertake the needed reforms in our financial sector to bring it about. In short, we have to speed up, extend, deepen and complete the reform process expeditiously if we are to attain our legitimate position.
18. Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India’s Look East Policy in the context of the post-Cold War international scenario.

Hints:

- India’s Look East Policy was initiated during the period of Narasimha Rao in 1992 for better engagement with East Asian and Southeast Asian nations. Such a policy for the first time prioritized our relationship with countries located to the east of India. Its strategic and economic dimensions can be seen as the growth and development of the entire region.

1. India-ASEAN FTA raised annual trade from $30 billion to $79 billion in 2012 and FTA in Services and Investments is expected to raise it to $100 billion by 2015. For example Singapore helping in building capital of Andhra Pradesh state.

2. Trilateral Highway between INDIA-MYANMAR-THAILAND helps in connecting Indian Highway system to ASEAN Highways.

3. This policy is driven by cooperation on counter-terrorism, humanitarian relief (Tsunami diplomacy - 2004), maritime and energy security, securing the Sea Lines of Communication (Malacca straits), piracy, narcotics trade, poaching and balancing of influence of other powers, importantly China. Most of the ASEAN nations have maritime disputes with China and they want India to counter the influence of China, which India is reluctant to do so. While staying away from their bilateral disputes, India must engage with them forcefully in situations where her vital interests are involved such as in Vietnam’s offshore oil blocks - very important for her energy security.

4. India’s attempt to promote trade with Bangladesh and Myanmar through Preferential Trade Areas has failed due to undue consideration of the law and order situation of the Northeast and the military and security establishment having a say in India’s foreign policy with these two countries.

5. There was Systematic institutionalization of economic and trade interactions with East Asian countries.

6. With increase in trade and investment security problems can be tackled simultaneously. It is said that where goods flow there is no need of guns.

7. India extended $500 million Line of Credit to Vietnam for facilitating deeper defense cooperation. This defense cooperation will counter China’s influence in the region.

8. Coordination of policies on economy and defense- safe haven for industry to grow with common concerns of terrorism, black money, trade restrictions etc address on unified platform.

India being a big nation has the capital, labour, and experience potential to lead the way for other nations and help create a united Southern Asia that serves best interests for all participant countries. Thus the region would rightly fulfill the economic, strategic and global interests and India stands keen on achieving them.

Also, for India, it is not a matter of choice, with China aggressively increasing its footprint into India’s neighborhood; it also needs to extend its sphere of influence up to South China Sea and East China Sea and this is only possible if, India has deep strategic ties in East Asia, including ASEAN and Japan and Korea.

19. "Increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in India and growing interference in the internal affairs of several member-states by Pakistan are not conducive for the future of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)." Explain with suitable examples.

Hints:

- India’s engagement with SAARC has been developmental and focused on increasing people to people contact to reduce the social tensions in South Asia. This is evident from the following examples.

1. South Asian satellite:

South Asia being a tropical country has been affected by unforeseen torrential rains, drought, cyclone etc. SAARC satellite which India promised in 2014 at Kathmandu will help in this context.
2. **South Asian University:**

   Located in DELHI, the degree of this university is recognized by all 8 SAARC countries. Again this is an attempt to bring students and thereby countries together.

3. **India has always supported SAFTA.**

4. **SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) and SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC)** are some of the initiatives of SAARC which India is a part of and is actively contributing.

   But Pakistan has been a sticking point in SAARC, even here India has tried to manage differences and work for the better of SAARC as a whole. India's historic relations with Pakistan have been of a stress and strain from both sides. This casts shadow over the regional cooperation and economic integration. Increasingly SAARC is being seen as SAARC minus Pakistan. This coupled with geopolitical tensions in the region is a grave danger for India. Some of the issues are:

   1. The issue of Kashmir is the foremost one which doesn't allow the nations to work jointly. Pakistan's militant action in Kashmir raises internal issues in India
   2. The offer of SAARC satellite by India has been stalled by Pakistan.
   3. Pakistan obstructs the way on any move at Trans border Commercial Corporation with India.
   4. South Asian Motor Vehicle Agreement which is not signed as Pakistan's reluctance.
   5. Therefore Pakistan should not be indulged in SAARC. ‘SAARC minus Pakistan' can be a beneficial concept.

   Isolating a member who has a different vision will not affect the development process; in fact it may help in accelerating growth in the region by ratifying agreements early. Motor vehicle movement agreement, railway linkages, SAARC satellite program, etc are signed up by all SAARC members except Pakistan. Countries can engage bilaterally and over other regional forums such as BIMSTEC, SASEC, etc for heading towards South Asian development. It will impact Pakistan as its trade and treaties with SAARC nations will be affected. Terrorism supported by Pakistan too is a challenge for South Asia. Such a move will send a strong message that not just India but other countries too are victims of and strictly against terrorism which Pakistan supports.

   Although, cooperation of Pakistan could have speeded up the growth in the South Asian region, but the prevailing environment of deep mistrust and tension with Pak renders it imperative to keep it out of SAARC. The sustained hostilities are detrimental for both the nations. In the short run the impact would be marginal but if this thing continues and escalate, there would be lot of concerns in rest of the world and international organizations that the situation does not go out of hand and is contained.

20. **What are the aims and objectives of the McBride Commission of the UNESCO? What is India's position on these?**

   **Hints:**

   • In 1970’s and 1980’s there were concerns from many people about how the then broadcast media was dominated by the very few developed countries.
   • It stated that developing nations saw mostly foreign channels and were influenced by it. Their culture was not reflected in the media thus there were culture shocks, disparities and trends in developing countries started aping the ‘west’.
   • The UNESCO acknowledged these concerns and set up a commission under Sean MacBride. This was known as MacBride Commission.
   • It supported the democratisation of communication characterized by equal opportunities of access, dialogue and participation for all including strengthening of national media to avoid dependence on external sources.
   • It stated that equal opportunities in communication were part of the basic human rights in the same way as freedom of expression.
• Today, even in India, modern media technologies, particularly the Internet and satellite communication, have become the infrastructure that has made possible a new global market system and a new context for the spread of political, economic and cultural ideas.
• The globalization of information has played both positive and negative role.
• It has increase awareness among the people about the internal and external activities, informed them about their rights.
• But alongwith the many positive changes these new means of communication violate the dignity and humanity of others through public deception, economic exploitation, political surveillance and repression, and other abuses of power.
Discuss the essentials of the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act and anomalies, if any that have led to recent reported conflicts between the elected representatives and the institution of the Lieutenant Governor in the administration of Delhi. Do you think that this will give rise to a new trend in the functioning of the Indian federal politics?

UPSC Ques. - 1

GS SCORE - GS MAINS TEST SERIES (Test No. - 2; Question No. 9; Dated - 10 April 2016)

Q. Too much discretionary powers with Governor stifles the governance in states and instead of promoting co-operative federalism promotes unitary form of government. In light of the above statement critically examine the needs of discretionary powers of Governor.

Hints:

• Governor in Indian states act as Nominal Head whereas the real power is exercised by Chief Minister however in order to ensure that state Government run in accordance with the Constitution of India, the Governor has been given certain discretionary powers, and Governor has been given freedom to act on its own in those areas.

• But Governor is an agent of the centre therefore since Independence the discretionary power of Governor have been misused for narrow political gains or to sabotage opposition ruled state governments by the party in power at the Centre.

• Many times Governors have taken no action on the bills passed by the Assembly which has stifled governance in States. Similarly many a times Governor has reserved Bills for President even when the bill contains matter which do not require assent of President.

• On many occasions Governor has also recommended President rule on grounds of lack of majority without giving chance to CM to prove his majority on the floor of the house as in Uttarakhand.

• In the exercise of their discretion in the appointment of the Chief Minister, Governors have not followed any uniform practice.

• All of the above mentioned actions are against the basic concept of cooperative federalism instead these actions promote unitary form of government where states are subservient to the centre.

• Though discretionary power of Governor have been misused many times in recent years, however scrapping it completely is not a solution because in order to function as guardian of functioning of constitutional machinery in states he needs to have certain discretionary power.

• However, discretionary power should be amended in order to prevent its misuse. Governors should not sit on Bills and must decide matters within a four-month period. He may give his accent to the bill or sent it back for reconsideration or refuse to give its accent.

• Secondly a constitutional amendment be brought about to limit the scope of discretionary powers of the Governor under Article 163 (2) of the Constitution.

• Grounds under which Article 356 could be imposed should be clearly brought out so that it cannot be misused.
Governor should use his discretionary powers only in exceptional and warranted cases. Article 163 does not give the Governor a general discretionary power to act against or without the advice of his Council of Ministers. The area for the exercise of his discretion is limited. Even this limited area, his choice of action should not be arbitrary or fanciful. It must be a choice dictated by reason, actuated by good faith and tempered by caution.

### Supplementary Notes

**Discretionary powers of the Governor**

**State Governor has constitutional discretion in the following cases:**

i. Reservation of a Bill for the consideration of the President;

ii. Recommendation for the imposition of the President’s Rule in the State;

iii. Exercising his functions as the administrator of an adjoining union territory.

iv. In the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram the Governor determines the amount payable to an autonomous Tribal District Council.

v. Seeking information from the Chief Minister with regard to the administrative and legislative matters exigencies in the following cases:

   (a) Appointing the Chief Minister when no party has acquired clear cut majority in the State Legislative Assembly and when the Chief Minister dies when in office.

   (b) Dismissal of the Council of Ministers when they lose the confidence of the State Legislative Assembly.

There are some other cases where the Governors of specific States may consult the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister but acts, in his discretion, some of them may be cited as follows:

i. Maharashtra – establishment of separate development boards for Vidarbha and Marathwada.

ii. Assam – with respect to the administration of tribal areas.

iii. Establishment of separate development boards of Kutch and Saurashtra in Gujarat.

iv. Nagaland – observance of law and order so long internal disturbance on the Naga Hills continue etc.

These discretionary powers of the Governor make him more than a mere constitutional head and enhance his powers in the State administration. These powers enable him to act more as an agent of the Centre in State administration.

### UPSC Ques. - 10

"In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal." Critically examine this statement.

**GS SCORE - GS MAINS TEST SERIES (Test No. - 9 Question No. 18; Dated - 28 May 2016)**

Q. Assess the roles of voluntary organizations in resolving social problems in India. How untapped potential of voluntary sector could be fully utilized?

**Hints:**

- Non-Governmental organisations or NGOs in brief, have been engaged in many social development activities.
- They are organised by a group of people who feel that they have a moral duty to serve the community. They are organised on a voluntary basis on the principle of service to the socially disadvantaged classes. Their efforts supplement those of the government.
- Also, they take up many activities, like organising the poor, which the government bureaucracy is not generally capable of taking up.
In our country, the role of NGOs in development activities is being increasingly emphasised in such fields as child and woman's development, slums improvement, poverty amelioration, environmental conservation, educational development and political movements.

The success of the Rural Development depends upon the active participation and willing co-operation of the rural people through self-help organizations and voluntary agencies.

In recent years, the voluntary agencies have acquired greater importance and significance than before.

Many Non-Governmental organizations have been concentrating social mobilization on contemporary issues of importance such as women empowerment, human rights, and implementation of various central and state government development programmes.

The NGOs in India have contributed handsomely towards social mobilization and social activism through their intensive campaigns, people's mobilization programmes and effective networks.

Recommendation to tap the potential of Voluntary Organisations are:

a) To have a sectorial identity by weeding out organizations that have stemmed from corporate bodies to re-emphasize the values of voluntarism.

b) To have a nodal ministry for the voluntary sector based on the guidelines of Steering Committee report of 2012. This ministry would help foster an enabling environment for the sector and assist in its regulation and monitoring of effective implementation of social development programs. The ministry would also facilitate communication between the voluntary sector and the government. It could also help liaise with the corporate sector through CSR.

c) To expand pilot study and develop a more in-depth research program to study the contribution of the voluntary sector in health, sanitation, education, water etc.

d) Proper legislation made exclusively for not-for-profit organizations and is separated from all other types of organizations that stem from other profit making bodies.

e) The government needs to be careful and sensitive towards the organizations working on the rights and entitlement issues to safeguard the rights of the poor and marginalized.

The interplay between bureaucracy and globalisation requires civil servants to localize globally and globalize locally. What does this implies? Discuss the steps needed for achieving the integration.

Hints:

• Globalization is a global economic movement which involves all national international economic players including the all pervasive bureaucracy.

• Under the impact of liberalization, privatization and globalization, the hold of the governments on economies is slackening. The influence of international bodies, multinational corporations and external agencies is on the ascendance.

• Due to this, inequality is on rise and the poor and needy are becoming more destitute. Thus civil servants are required to manage globalization in such a manner that the negative impact of this system is minimized to a great extent. They have to be more cautious and vigilant and to act localize globally and globalize locally.

• This implies that civil servants have to employ a Global strategy, but also focus on Localized initiatives for content, commerce, and engagement within citizens.

• They have to initiate decentralization, people’s empowerment through devolution of powers and encourage local self governing institutions to administer and meet collective or social needs while encouraging markets to meet the individual needs.
Steps needed for achieving the integration.

(a) The civil services should protect the people against the market forces and onslaught of multinationals.
(b) The people should be encouraged to manage their affairs through various forms of organizations like N.G.O.s, cooperatives, self-help groups and institutions working for the welfare of people.
(c) Participatory measures should be taken as an end, as they help the people to enjoy their freedom.
(d) States, collectively or singly, should set the rules of the game, that enter into agreements with other States, and that make policies which shape national and global activities, and the agenda of integration.

Experience has shown that globalization requires strong, not weak States. Thus, one of the main preconditions to ensure that the benefits of globalization are evenly spread throughout the developed and the developing world and within a given country is good governance, including an efficient and effective public administration.

GS SCORE - GS MAINS TEST SERIES (Test No. 2 Question No. 10; Dated - 28 August 2016)
Q. Economic development is a pre-requisite of administrative development whereas, enhancement of bureaucratic capability requires development of the society. Illustrate with suitable example.

Hints:
• Economic development is necessary to provide basic funds and infrastructure for the successful functioning of the administration. In a country with limited economic resources, administrators are not in a position to implement governmental programmes and policies successfully.
• Modern administration particularly is dependent on ICT and thus, importance of financial aspects is only increasing over time.
• However it is not the sole criteria for the establishment of good governance.
• Administration is culture-bound. It is shaped by the setting or the environment in which it operates.
• Thus, the Socio-cultural environment affects the administration. There exists casteism, nepotism, favouritism, corruption and other ills in the society.
• A society totally divided by social classes, will also have a divided bureaucracy or a non-representative bureaucracy representing stronger classes only.
• Hence, these ailments reduce the administrative capabilities of the administrators and affect their rational thinking.
• Thus, for bureaucratic strengthening, social development is a prerequisite.

GS SCORE - GS MAINS TEST SERIES (Test No. 2 Question No. 2; Dated - 16 January 2016)
Q. The demographic dividend is fast becoming a demographic liability in India due to lack of vocational education, skill formation and employment. Discuss.

Hints:
• “Demographic Dividend” means that as compared to other large developing and developed countries, India has a higher proportion of working age population vis-à-vis is entire population.
More than 50% of India’s population is in the age group of 15-59 years. With such a young population, it has a huge demographic dividend waiting to be capitalized. This places India at a huge strategic advantage against other developed nations and a huge window of opportunity for fuelling economic growth. But unfortunately we haven’t been able to harness this capital.

According to a McKinsey study, 51% of this working age population, i.e., more than 350 million people require some form of vocational/skill based training in order to make them more employable.

So while we are growing at an unprecedented rate in few aspects, we are way behind global standards in others. A report by FICCI shows that India has fewer than 10,000 vocational training institutes with a capacity of just 1.3 million. Just a tenth of those looking to join the workforce receive any training, as compared to 60%-96% of workers in developed nations in Asia and the West.

Because of lack of necessary training facilities, potential workers are either unemployed or underemployed, while industries are being forced to employ untrained youngsters whose number and quality doesn’t match their requirements. Automobile, construction, retail, healthcare, banking, electronics hardware, media, tourism and IT are few of the sectors that are in immediate need of skilled workers.

As a result, the productivity levels of Indian industrial sector are very low compared to standard of major exporters, such as China, Japan, and Germany. Not only India suffers from Industrial sickness, it also has a much skewed occupational structure, which doesn’t reflect its comparative advantage.

**Measures**

A solution could be introducing vocational training at the high school level. An important reason for high school dropout rates after class tenth is disconnect between industry requirements and education. When students realize that what they study in school will not help them earn a livelihood immediately, they quit school to take up a job. If instead, they are also trained in income generating activities, they could continue school while also pursuing a job.

Also, Private Sector needs to ramp up its contribution towards creating a skilled manpower. Presently many private sector companies run Industrial Training Institutes on a small scale as part of their CSR activities. If they form a consortium of industries working in the similar space to scale up such training activities, a larger impact can be achieved.

Industrial revival and tourism growth are very important source of employment for masses, however, both of the sectors require huge overhaul in the present education system and mind-set of people.

**Supplementary Notes**

“Demographic dividend, as defined by the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF) means, “the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population’s age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working-age share of the population (14 and younger, and 65 and older).” In other words, it is “a boost in economic productivity that occurs when there are growing numbers of people in the workforce relative to the number of dependents.” UNPF stated that, “A country with both increasing numbers of young people and declining fertility has the potential to reap a demographic dividend.

A 2011 International Monetary Fund Working Paper found that substantial portion of the growth experienced by India since the 1980s is attributable to the country’s age structure and changing demographics. The U.S. Census Bureau predicts that India will surpass China as the world’s largest country by 2025, with a large proportion of those in the working age category. Over the next two decades the continuing demographic dividend in India could add about two percentage points per annum to India’s per capita GDP growth. Extreme actions are needed to take care of future basic minimum living standards including food, water and energy. As per Population Reference Bureau, India’s population in 2050 is projected to be 1.692 billion people.

**Mechanisms for Growth in the Demographic Dividend:** During the course of the demographic dividend there are four mechanisms through which the benefits are delivered. They are:

1. The first is the increased labour supply. However, the magnitude of this benefit appears to be dependent on the ability of the economy to absorb and productively employ the extra workers rather than be a pure demographic gift.
2. The second mechanism is the increase in savings. As the number of dependents decreases, individuals can save more. This increase in national savings rates increases the stock of capital in developing countries already facing shortages of capital and leads to higher productivity as the accumulated capital is invested.

3. The third mechanism is human capital. Decreases in fertility rates result in healthier women and fewer economic pressures at home. This also allows parents to invest more resources per child, leading to better health and educational outcomes.

4. The fourth mechanism for growth is the increasing domestic demand brought about by the increasing GDP per capita and the decreasing dependency ratio.

Low fertility initially leads to low youth dependency and a high ratio of working age to total population. However, as the relatively large working age cohort grows older, population aging sets in. There is a strategic urgency to put in place policies which take advantage of the demographic dividend for most countries. This urgency stems from the relatively small window of opportunity countries have to plan for the demographic dividend when many in their population are still young, prior to entering the work force. During this short opportunity, countries traditionally try to promote investments which will help these young people be more productive during their working year. Failure to provide opportunities to the growing young population will result in rising unemployment and an increased risk of social upheaval.

The urgency to put in place appropriate policies is magnified by the reality that what follows the “demographic dividend” is a time when the dependency ratio begins to increase again. Inevitably the population bubble that made its way through the most productive working years creating the “demographic dividend” grows old and retires. With a disproportionate number of old people relying upon a smaller generation following behind them the “demographic dividend” becomes a liability. With each generation having fewer children population growth slows, stops, or even goes into reverse. This is currently seen most dramatically in Japan with younger generations essentially abandoning many parts of the country. Other regions, notably Europe and North America, will face similar situations in the near future with East Asia to follow after that. China’s current independence ratio of 38 is unprecedentedly low. This represents the number of dependents, children, and people over 65, per 100 working adults. This implies that there are nearly twice as many working age people as the rest of the entire population combined. This historically low dependency ratio has been extremely beneficial for China’s unprecedented period of economic growth. This dramatic shift was brought about largely in part due to China’s one-child policy. As a result, China is currently aging at an unprecedented rate. China will be older than the United States by 2020 and by Europe by 2030. Combined with the sex-selective abortions widely practiced as a result of the one-child policy – China will have 96.5 million men in their 20s in 2025 but only 80.3 million young women – China’s future demography holds many challenges for the Communist Party. But, recently keeping in view of the demographic future challenges of their country, China government is quitting one child policy and going to adopt two child policy per family.

Demographic Dividend in India:

- Census 2011 data shows that India’s working age population (15-64 years) is now 63.4% of the total population, as against just short of 60% in 2001. In 2015, it is 52.45 (per 100 population 15-64).
- The numbers also show that the ‘dependency ratio’ - the ratio of children (0-14) and the elderly (65-100) to those in the working age - has shrunk further to 0.55.
- India’s median age has risen from around 22 years in 2001 to over 24 years in 2011.
- India is poised to become the world’s youngest country by 2020, with an average age of 29 years, and account for around 28% of the world’s workforce.
- In comparison, during the same period, the average age is expected to be 37 years in China and the US and 45 years in Western Europe.
- The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has predicted that by 2020, India will have 116 million workers in the work-starting age bracket of 20 to 24 years, as compared to China’s 94 million. In 20 years the labour force in the industrialized world will decline by 4%, in China by 5%, while in India it will increase by 32%.
- IMF, in 2011, reported that India’s demographic dividend has the potential to add 2 percentage points per annum to India’s per capita GDP growth over the next two decades.
The broader aims and objectives of WTO are to manage and promote international trade in the era of globalization. But the Doha round of negotiations seem doomed due to differences between the developed and the developing countries. Discuss in the Indian perspective.

UPSC Ques. - 17

GS SCORE TEST SERIES (Test No. 4 Question No. 15; Dated - 24 April 2016)

Q. The Nairobi Ministerial of the WTO failed to break the deadlock set by the Doha round. Do you agree? Why?

Hints:

- The topmost decision-making body of the WTO is the Ministerial Conference, which usually meets every two years. It brings together all members of the WTO, all of which are countries or customs unions.
- The Ministerial Conference can take decisions on all matters under any of the multilateral trade agreements.
- The Nairobi Ministerial saw contentions from both Developed Nations and Developing Nations on Doha Rounds. The Conference could not take further the remaining Issues of Doha Declaration.

Reasons for Failure to Break Doha Deadlock:

- Core Issue: The US and EU wants to launch new negotiations while pursuing unresolved issues in agriculture and other areas outside the Doha architecture. But a majority of WTO members want to continue with the Doha negotiations.

Contention of the Developing Countries

- India has expressed disappointment over non-reaffirmation of the long-stalled Doha Round, agreement on removal of cotton subsidy altogether by 01 January 2017, and a few other provisions related to phasing out of export subsidies.
- India, China, and Indonesia on behalf of 47 developing countries, demanded comprehensive and balanced outcomes, particularly deliverables that would help resource-poor farmers in all the three core negotiating areas, viz., agriculture, non-agricultural market access and services.

Contention of Developed Countries

- The US and its supporters want a finite number of deliverables in which they themselves do not have to undertake any fresh commitments, including "export competition (in agriculture)", some limited concessions for the poorest countries and transparency-related commitments.
- The biggest demand of the developed countries is to abolish agricultural export subsidies, so as to allow developing countries to better integrate themselves into the global market.

Conclusion

- The G-33 has strongly argued the case for an effective Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) for developing countries and for changing the rules relating to public stockholding for food security purposes, SSM is a trade remedy mechanism that will allow developing countries to hike duties temporarily to counter the import surge and price falls in farm products.
- India wants the Nairobi meet to re-affirm the Doha Development Agenda and all Ministerial Declarations and Decisions taken since 2001, when the Doha Round was launched.
- India is concerned over the fact that the reduction in the massive subsidization of the farm sector in developed countries - which was the clear cut mandate of the Doha Round talks- is now not even a subject matter of discussion, leave aside serious negotiations.
Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India’s Look East Policy in the context of the post-Cold War international scenario.

GS SCORE TEST SERIES (Test No. 2 Question No. 21; Dated - 21 October 2016)

Q. Examine the recent developments in India’s "Look East Policy' under the new regime? Also describe their impact on India's North-eastern region?

Hints:
- The opening up of India’s economy in 1991, also marked the beginning of significant shift in India’s foreign policy. New focus was given to engagements with all the countries on the basis of geopolitics and realism rather than based on particular ideology and idealism.
- As a result of this Look East policy was designed with special focus on South East Asian Countries with which India had historical cultural and trade linkages. As a result of it India become dialogue partner in ASEAN, started India-ASEAN summit and many more initiatives. Later strategic dimensions were also added to it.
- With the coming of new government in 2014, there has been a visible shift in India Look East Policy. Along with rechristened name of Act East Asia, it also has renewed focus on extended neighbourhood which encompasses Asia-Pacific region including East Asian countries like Japan, South Korea and small Pacific Island nations etc.
- It is also aimed matching the growing influence of China in the region. Any loss of strategic space to China will be difficult to cover; therefore the soft power of India has been focused on to establish strong relationship.
- Focus has been extending the relations to the level of strategic and defence relations. The involvement of Japan in Malabar exercise, giving navy patrol vessels to Vietnam etc are part of it.
- Energy, IT and physical connectivity have been significantly focused. Focus has been on quick delivery of results. Increased focus on early completion of Trilateral Highway shows the renewed focus.
- India’s business with ASEAN countries is only 30% of total ASEAN trade, and government is keen on increasing it.

It’s impact on India’s North East
- India’s north east region has been suffering from lack of development because of poor connectivity and infrastructure problems. Four of seven north eastern states share border with Myanmar. Increasing integration with Myanmar and ASEAN will help India in ensuring the development of the north east states.
- The Kaladan multi-modal, trilateral highway and railway line will boost connectivity with the region and help in infrastructure development.
- It will open up new economic opportunities for the region in the form of boost in trade etc.
- Establishment of new education, health facilities in India’s North East can help in making this region educational and medical tourism hub because of increased connectivity.
- With improved economic situation the problem of violence, secessionist movements will subside.
- The new Act East policy if implemented with proper availability of resources and strategic focus can not only help in improving the HDI indicators of India’s north east, but also can help in better integration of the whole of East Asia, which will help in improving the health, education and employment scenario. It will also help in ensuring better co-operation on various issues of global importance and can further the peace and prosperity of the region.
New Infrastructure projects in North-east under the Modi Administration

After coming to power Modi Government has started many projects to develop the North East region and provide citizens residing there with all the modern amenities. A lot still needs to be done before NE states can be called developed states. However, here is a look at how the North East India is developing:

Assessment of Infrastructural Constraints in N-E Region:

The North Eastern Council has been conducting assessment of the various socio-economic challenges and infrastructural constraints being faced in the North Eastern Region, from time to time.

Major ones as figured out by the Council are Perspective Transport Plan for Development of North Eastern Region (NER) which became the basis for the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East (SARDP-NE), Feasibility Study on Comprehensive Power Transmission and Distribution in NE which formed the basis for Comprehensive Scheme for Transmission and Distribution in NE States, the NER Vision-2020 Document, Feasibility Study Report on Poverty Eradication in NER, Comprehensive Tourism Master Plan for NER, Health Workforce Development Plan for NER and Study on Air Connectivity in NER.

Since its inception the North Eastern Council has invested over Rs. 12,756 crore for development of the NER in sectors such as transport and communication for roads and bridges, bus and truck terminus, airport and air connectivity; power generation and transmission; irrigation and water management; education, community infrastructure and sports; medical and health; agriculture and allied activities; industries; tourism; science and technology; and livelihood.

Physical achievement of the North Eastern Council includes construction of 10949 km. of roads of Inter-State nature and roads of economic importance. 11 Inter-State Bus Terminus and 3 Inter-State Truck Terminus in the North Eastern States.

The North Eastern Council also funded 60 percent of the project costs for upgradation of twelve airports through Airport Authority of India, namely, Guwahati, Silchar, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Lilabari, Tezpur, Umroi, Lengpui, Dimapur, Imphal, Agartala and Tezu airports.

Besides, the North Eastern Council is instrumental in establishment or funding of several important institutions in the NER that include North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd., (NEEPCO), North Eastern Handicraft and Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd., (NEHHDC), North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management (NERIWALM), Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC).

A livelihood project, the NER Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP) was initially funded jointly with International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and subsequently continued with domestic funding.

The project covers eleven Districts in four States, namely, Dima Haso and Karbi Anglong in Assam; Senapati, Ukhrul, Chandel and Churachandpur in Manipur; West Khasi Hills and West Garo Hills in Meghalaya; and Changlang, Longding and Tirap in Arunachal Pradesh.

Modern Facilities in Border States of North-East:

Government is taking steps to accelerate the pace of the socio-economic development of the NER. Provision of modern facilities for all round development of Border States of NE is an ongoing process. Concerned Central Ministries or Departments are required to earmark at least 10% of gross budgetary support for NER. The Ministry of DoNER and NEC provide funds for bridging infrastructure gaps in NER.

Ministry of DONER is administering NLCPR Scheme under which a total of 53 projects of Health Sector amounting to Rs. 63313.36 lakhs and 168 projects in Education Sector amounting to Rs.145416.55 lakhs, have been sanctioned so far.

North Eastern Council (NEC) is also administering schemes under various sectors in North Eastern States. In Industry sector, NEC have 41 on-going projects with an approved cost of Rs.17322.12 lakhs, Health Sector, it has 58 on-going projects with an approved cost of Rs.40870.85 lakh and in Education sector, NEC has 78 on-going projects with an approved cost of Rs.24294.98 lakh.
Ministry of Home Affairs releases funds for development of border areas under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) scheme. Rs. 27757.86 lakhs has been released in current financial year to meet the special developmental needs of the people lying near the international border.

Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resources Development has sanctioned 630 new schools and selected 3334 schools for strengthening and enhance the quality of education under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shikhsa Abhiyan (RSMA). An amount of Rs.122884.36 lakhs has been released since its inception.

**NLCPR Funds Allocated to NE States:**

Funds available in Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) are allocated to the North Eastern States for bridging infrastructure gaps based on Priority Lists submitted by respective State Governments.

As on 26.02.2016, under NLCPR 1569 projects at a cost of Rs. 14309.23 crores have been sanctioned out of which 890 projects at a cost of Rs. 5846.20 crores have been completed and 679 projects at a cost of Rs. 8463.01 crores are ongoing at various stages of completion.

In addition, a total of 247 projects have been retained during last three years at a cost of Rs. 3867.90 crores.

In the current Financial Year, as on 26.02.2016, an amount of Rs. 376.61 crores have been released for completion of ongoing projects and 17 new projects have been sanctioned for which Rs. 120.97 crores have been released.

**UPSC Ques. - 19**

"Increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in India and growing interference in the internal affairs of several member-states by Pakistan are not conducive for the future of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)." Explain with suitable examples.

**GS SCORE TEST SERIES (Test No. 7 Question No. 19; Dated - 26 March 2016)**

Q. BIMSTEC as regional organization has more potential and prospects as compared to SAARC. Should India reduce its focus on SAARC and what will be the implications of such change of approach on India-Pakistan relations?

**Hints:**

BIMSTEC and SAARC are two regional groups founded, because of geographical connectivity among the member countries and aimed at ensuring shared prosperity. Both the grouping has some advantages and problems.

- SAARC covers 3 percent of world’s total area but acquires 21 percent population of the world. It could not make India much developed despite of India’s domination over 70 percent of SAARC’s area.
- Internal trade within the grouping is merely 7%. There are not much complementarity among the member countries.
- The reasons comprising political differences, inequalities between India and its neighbouring countries and bilateral issues between India and Pakistan affect the functioning of SAARC. The recent example of Pakistan not supporting an agreement related to movement of vehicles indicates the hindrances in the success of SAARC.

All these reasons have negatively affected the growth of region and India. Therefore India should look for opportunities if arrive elsewhere.

In the backdrop, BIMSTEC could prove to be an important opportunity in the transformative journey that India aspires to undertake in near to medium-term future.

- BIMSTEC countries do not have any kind of historical or boundary dispute which can affect negatively.
- Countries like Thailand and Myanmar have huge energy resources which can benefit the grouping and the grouping is planning Trans-BIMSTEC natural gas pipeline.
- The recent initiatives of Tri-latreal Highway, Kaladan Multimodal corridor, BBIN will help in ensuring connectivity.
It offers additional advantages for India’s north east region in the form better economic opportunities and prosperity.

Apart from land connectivity, the connectivity through Bay of Bengal can be a boon for the grouping.

In recent there has been considerable growth in India’s trade with BIMSTEC countries. Therefore BIMSTEC offers fresh opportunities and may entice policy makers for shunning SAARC and focusing on it.

What will the negative implications of such a step?

- It will give naysayers a plank to raise their voice against each other.
- It will give message that India is not interested in engagements with Pakistan.
- Afghanistan, which is strategically important for India and important point for access to central Asia.

What should be done?

Though BIMSTEC offers additional advantages and SAARC has internal problems, but it does not mean that we should dump SAARC.

- The reality is that by changing focus doesn’t lead to change in neighbouring countries, the issues we confront with them. So there is no point in reducing focus on SAARC.
- Both SAARC and BIMSTEC taken together can result valuable strategic gains in future.
- SAARC can give both India and Pakistan an important strategic leverage to improve relations and therefore should be focused on.
- BIMSTEC can act as a bridge between the two regional groupings in Asia, viz., SAARC and ASEAN.
- Using SAARC strong interdependence, co-operation and complementarities must be established so that both India and Pakistan have more stakes in continuing engagements rather than stopping them.

Supplementary Material

BIMSTEC

Formed in 1997. Consists of 7 countries (India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Sri Lanka) BIMSTEC consists of around 1.5bn people, which constitute around 22 percent of the global population with a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 2.7tn economy.

Weaknesses of BIMSTEC:

- Intra-regional trade only 2.6%
- Issues of Rohingyas between Myanmar and Bangladesh
- Political issues between India and Bangladesh, Teesta water issue etc.
- Military influence in Myanmar and it impact long term engagements with the country.

UPSC Ques. - 11

“Effectiveness of the government system at various levels and people’s participation in the governance system are inter-dependent.” Discuss their relationship with each other in context of India.

GS SCORE QIP Material: Good Governance and Citizen Centric Administration

Good governance aims at providing an environment in which all citizens irrespective of class, caste and gender can develop to their full potential. In addition, good governance also aims at providing public ser-
vices effectively, efficiently and equitably to the citizens. The 4 pillars on which the edifice of good government rests, in essence are:

- Ethos (of service to the citizen),
- Ethics (honesty, integrity and transparency),
- Equity (treating all citizens alike with empathy for the weaker sections), and
- Efficiency (speedy and effective delivery of service without harassment and using ICT increasingly).

Citizens are thus at the core of good governance. Therefore, good governance and citizen centric administration are inextricably linked.

The endeavour of Government at all levels has, therefore, been to provide for a citizen centric administration. To this end, a robust legal framework has been created. Institutions such as the National Human Rights Commission, National Women's Commission, National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, and Lokayuktas, etc. have been set up. Several other measures including affirmative actions have been initiated for the socio-economic empowerment of the weaker sections of society.

Core Principles for Making Governance Citizen Centric

In our country there is a tendency for some enforcement agencies not to rigorously enforce the provisions of law. This is particularly evident in case of traffic related violations, civic offences, infringement of pollution control laws etc. For their part, sometimes, the citizens are equally to blame for flouting rules with impunity and without regard to public health, safety and consideration for others. A crackdown on these types of offences in some cities like Delhi, whether enforced by Courts or otherwise, have tended to operate as campaigns and may therefore be unable to create and sustain a long term impact because they are driven by personalities or by court verdicts rather than by the institutions themselves.

Hence all public agencies should adopt a zero tolerance strategy towards crime, in order to create a climate of compliance with laws leading to maintenance of public order. This strategy should be institutionalized in the various public agencies by creating appropriate statistical databases, backed up by modern technology, to monitor the level and trends of various types of offences and link these to a system of incentives and penalties for the officials working in these agencies. It should be combined with initiatives to involve the community in crime prevention measures. The core principles for making governance citizen centric are:

- Making Institutions Vibrant, Responsive and Accountable
- Active Citizens' Participation - Decentralization and Delegation
- Transparency
- Civil Service Reforms
- Ethics in Governance
- Process Reforms
- Periodic & Independent Evaluation of the Quality of Governance

Citizen expects good governance and high quality performance from Government. Good governance brings prosperity. Instead bad governance, brings conflict result in civil war, as it restricts opportunities of its citizen which make them frustrated.

Having said all this, it is important to re-iterate that the success of the governance depends on proper policy making and policy implementation which in turn depends on the successful implementation of different methodologies of good governance at the ground level rather than managerial skills of the administrators, mainly because of the in-built variable and dynamic nature of the problems wherein the success of the decisions more depend on whether the understanding of the administrator is congruent to the nucleus of the problem as it was perceived by the public at large. Further not only the administrators are expected to identify the issues but also the relative weights which needs to ascribed to the various issues and their related aspects. Lastly the manner in which the issues are addressed again is very organic and fluid which ascribes ultimate importance to the sensitivities and perceptions of the clientele in accordance with the situational features. Thus, participation of all stakeholders as government, judiciary, institutions, civil society and citizens are necessary to bring good governance.
Exercise of CAG's powers in relation to the accounts of the Union and the States is derived from Article 149 of the Indian Constitution. Discuss whether audit of the Government's Policy implementation could amount to overstepping its own (CAG) jurisdiction.

GS SCORE Magazin (August Part - I) Working of Comptroller And Auditor General of India

What is the constitutional position of CAG?

The constitution through articles 148 to 151 in Part V makes provisions for a Comptroller and Auditor General of India for checking the accounts and assessing the soundness of the financial transactions of the executive. The fundamental basis of the parliamentary system of the Government is the responsibility of the executive to the legislature for all its actions. The legislature is able to enforce this responsibility only if it is competent to scrutinize the activities of the executive.

Role of CAG in establishment of Good Governance

Good Accounting System refers to the fulfillment of the core purpose of accounting i.e., use of information intended to improve the state's management and operations, compliance, and accountability. Such system identifies errors, omissions, and inconsistencies. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is an authority, established by the Constitution of India, who audits all receipts and expenditure of the Government of India and the state governments including those of bodies and authorities substantially financed by the government. The CAG is also the external auditor of government-owned companies. The reports of the CAG are taken into consideration by the Public Accounts Committees, which are special committees in the Parliament of India and the state legislatures.

CAG can bring transparency and accountability by following ways:

a) Participation: To understand contemporary concerns about the developmental interaction undertaken by the government, CAG have increased, and institutionalized their interaction with public and civil society for providing inputs for audit prioritization and benchmarks for evaluation. They have built synergies with social audit groups and other stakeholders.

b) Transparency: Generally the reports of government agencies are lengthy and technical, which makes them opaque for general public. But CAG office has made out reports more concurrent and reader friendly. A reader now has the option to go through our full reports or get a bird's eye view of their findings through the slim booklets and brochures prepared by them.

c) Responsiveness: While reporting audit findings they highlight the good practices and innovations of the executive and make constructive recommendations for midcourse corrective action in respect of deficiencies pointed out.

For example in Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak yojana the performance audit report has highlighted several irregularities, ranging from -

- Flouting of planning procedures,
- Poor quality control,
- Diversion of funds,
- Extension of undue benefits to contractors,
- Showing road connectivity where there is none,
- Not providing roads to eligible habitations, and
- Pathetic maintenance of roads.

However, in recent times questions have been raised not only with respect to the basis of the office of the CAG, but also the model of the institution of CAG and factual efficacy in the reports.

- The CAG's reports on the Commonwealth Games and the auctioning of 2G Spectrum have been the immediate triggers behind these utterances. In the CAG's report on the 2G case, the national loss figure of Rs. 176000 crore has been much criticised. The report in fact makes it clear that it is difficult to arrive at a firm figure of loss, because calculation was made in three different ways through...
It must be remembered that the CAG is concerned with providing a fair and transparent audit leading to credible governance. In its quest to do so, it not only needs to look at the compliance of systems, but also go deeper into issues of policy making. This is because systems and policies are not independent of each other; therefore the effect that policies have on systems need to be looked into.

Moreover, with changing times, governance has not remained confined only to the State. Not only the civil society and media but also the citizens at large have acquired a stake in ensuring that the best governance practices are followed in India.

In this context, the independence of the CAG from the executive makes it an appropriate body for oversight on the government expenditure. In the pursuance of its goals, if it needs to question the rationale behind policies and whether they confirm to the standards of ethics and fairness, it would not be improper.

Also, The CAG’s reports have suffered from too little much publicity. In India very few of the CAG’s reports are widely known, and that not all of them get discussed in Parliament. Some years ago, press conferences began to be held after the Audit Reports were placed before Parliament, and that practice continues.

**Supreme auditory institution of India plays a major role in helping**

- Government departments in strengthening internal controls and understanding risks to improve delivery systems.
- The Finance Commission to gain an informed opinion on State Government’s finances.
- The State Governments in putting in place better, transparent accounting systems for Local Bodies and PRIs.
- Through the Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board (GASAB) in framing Government Accounting Standards for greater transparency.

**Conclusion**

The role of governance is an integral component of any country’s growth and development. In an era where India has been plagued by the menace of unprecedented corruption, auditing and scrutiny of the government exchequer assume prime importance. The Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General is being increasingly perceived as an institution that can deliver the country from such plight.

However, if the CAG is to become more effective as an institution for the enforcement of accountability, it is necessary that Audit Reports be more widely known and discussed. The people have a right to know their contents. If, as a result of the controversies, the CAG and his reports are now better known than before, it is a very good development. If the CAG manages to enhance the effectiveness of this constitutional institution, it’s a positive development towards a democratic nation.