

GS SCORE

**GS Mains
Test Series 2016
Comparison**

with

UPSC

GS Paper 1, 2, 3 & 4

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GS Score Test Series/QIP Comparison with UPSC GS Mains 2016

PAPER - I

UPSC Ques. - 4

Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase.

GS SCORE - IAS MAINS TEST SERIES (Test No. 10; Question No. 8; Dated - 05 June 2016)

Q. The long process of Indian national movement secured the active role of women in the society as well. Comment.

Hints:

- The Indian national movement actively saw the participation of women. They participated in large numbers in various movements and organizations. Their participation helped them to strengthen their position in the society and secure an active role.
- The sacrifice made by the women of India occupies a significant place. The women during freedom struggle fought with true spirit and undaunted courage and faced various tortures, exploitations and hardships to earn freedom for the country.

How Nationalist Movement Secured active role of women in Society?

- Due to the empowerment granted by nationalist Movement Women's participation in movements related to social, economic and political rights like tribals, peasants and industrial workers, improvement in conditions of work and autonomy to women, equal remuneration for work etc increased significantly.
- Indian national movement worked for liberation or uplift of women through propagation of need for reform in the current social practices so as to enable women to play a more important and constructive role in society; It also propagated equal rights for men and women, i.e., extension of civil rights enjoyed by men in the political, economic and familial spheres to women also. All of this Noble ideas of our nationalist movement helped women to secure a active place in society.
- A large number of women participated in India's struggle for independence. Women could take part in the movements such as CDM, and were in fact encouraged to do so, since the methods for struggle were mainly non-cooperation and non-violence.
- They were active in participating in the Swadeshi movement, or the boycott of foreign goods, non-payment of taxes, picketing of liquor shops, and so on. There was mass participation of women in the non-cooperation movement of 1921 and the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930. All of this helped women to break the shackles of seclusion and helped them to be an active contributor in the betterment of the society.
- Most of the nationalist Leaders focused on Women Education which led to creation of educational opportunities for the Women, Which ultimately increased the number of educated women and thus enhanced there social status in the society.
- The aim of our Nationalist Movement was to give universal Adult Franchise to all including women which ultimately led to adoption of Universal Adult Franchise in 1947 this single step made women equal Political partner and citizen in the Democracy and significantly increased their social status.
- Thus As a result of being associated with, and participating in the freedom struggle, Indian women realized the importance of living life as conscious human beings. They started breaking barriers and earned a respectable position in the world.

UPSC Ques. - 5

Highlight is the difference in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom.

GS SCORE - GS MAINS TEST SERIES (Test No. 5; Question No. 5; Dated - 12 November 2016)

Q. To what extent you agree, that the contribution of Subhas Chandra Bose to India's freedom struggle is not less than any other leader of Indian freedom movement. Elaborate.

Hints:

Popularly called Netaji, Subhas Chandra Bose, stands aloft among the many freedom fighters that India has produced. His contribution towards India's Freedom struggle was of a revolutionary.

- He had cleared the Indian Civil Services, but he left civil Services apprenticeship and joined India's freedom struggle.
- During non-cooperation movement he organized national schools and colleges and worked for Hindu Muslim Unity. He was appointed the principal of National College in Calcutta.
- During the Simon commission protests, he along with Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru emerged as the leaders of new generation of youth and students, set up Left wing of congress and were instrumental in spreading the ideas of socialism that reflected in the emergence of groups such as Punjab Naujawan Bharat Sabha, workers and peasants parties etc
- He stressed upon the need to combine nationalism with anti-imperialism and complete independence.
- He was a member of Nehru (Motilal Nehru) constitution drafting committee, but he along with Nehru and Satyamurthy was dissatisfied with the dominion status proposal in report and called for complete independence. He along with Nehru rejected the congress's modified goal and jointly set up Independence for India League. They were instrumental in mobilising the idea of complete independence and not only the dominion status.
- Under his congress presidentship, efforts were taken on planning under National Planning committee. Bose initiated the concept of the "National Planning Committee" in 1938.
- While the whole nation was engaged in the Quit India movement, the struggle for independence was carried on by Subhash Chandra Bose from outside India.
- The Indian National Army and Subhash Chandra Bose played their significant role in the freedom struggle of India.
- The Indian National Congress, the main instrument of Indian nationalism, praised Bose's patriotism but distanced itself from his means and ideology, especially his collaboration with Germany and Japan.
- Bose was an Indian nationalist and prominent figure of the Indian independence movement, whose attempt during World War II to rid India of British rule with the help of Nazi Germany and Japan left a troubled legacy.
- However his contribution to the Indian freedom struggle is no less than any other great leader of his times.

UPSC Ques. - 8

To what extent globalization has influence the core of cultural diversity in India? Explain.

GS SCORE - GS MAINS TEST SERIES (Test No. 10; Question No. 6; Dated - 30 October 2016)

Q. How does globalization influence culture; elaborate with suitable illustrations about its bad and good influence on local culture in Indian context?

Hints:

Globalization provides both positive and negative influences on cultural diversity which can have far reaching impacts. Globalization has led to hybridization, homogenisation and sometimes conflict intensification as a reaction to cultural dominance.

Effects of globalisation can be:

- (a) **Culture of consumption:** globalisation has led to growth of shopping malls, multiplex cinema halls, amusement parks etc. Money is no longer a virtue. Advertisements and media in general promote a culture where spending is more important. Shopping is a pass time actively encouraged.
- (b) **Food habits:** visible aspect of cultural globalization is the diffusion of certain cuisines such as fast food chains. ex, the coming of American fast food chains like McDonald, coca cola or the Indian chain like café coffee day etc. It has made the world cuisines available to the local people. While at the same time Indian cuisines have got the attention of world population. Many restaurants in Europe and USA offer Indian food like Dosa, parathas etc.
- (c) **Indigenous arts and crafts:** - and literary traditions and knowledge systems are vanishing due to the influence of televisions, computers, etc. Ex, the profession of Dombari community who livelihood depended on performing acrobatics is dying because of lack of audience. Example, Migration of the traditional weavers of sircilla village of karimnagar due to lack of money in investing in new technology and unable to adapt to changing consumer tastes and competition from power looms or synthetic fabrics.
 - o On the other hand the increased informational technology and social networking like Facebook, twitter and e-commerce coupled with geographical indication tags have also led to their promotion. Example, the Indian handloom textiles and handicrafts promoted in other countries. Example, Banarasi and kancheevaram sarees, Madhubani and Pattachitra paintings, Meerut scissors, etc.
- (d) **Languages:** - globalisation has made English a predator language. English is getting replacing others as the language of communication at household and the younger generations do not speak their mother tongues. It has reduced the amount of literary works published in local languages and also their audience who read it.
- (e) **Diseases:** diseases that originate in one part of the world spread to other because of increased mobility and interaction of people. Ex, In the HIV/AIDS and recent time Ebola and Zika Virus.
- (f) **Conflict intensification:** - cultural shyness has led to marginalisation of some cultures however with increased jingoism and anxiety to protect their cultures has led to cultural nationalism and in extreme cases chauvinism attacking the ideas of other cultures. Ex the religious fringe elements being increasingly vocal about celebration of New Year's, valentine day etc.
- (g) **Music:** - while it has bought a large number of International pop music to India, it has also seen the growth of popularity of fusion music like Bhangra pop, Indi pop or even remixes etc. one the other hand it has led to marginalisation of traditional music of different areas.
- (h) **Commodification of services:** - Globalisation has drawn the elements of culture that were earlier outside the market system into it. Example, the presence of Indian spirituality and knowledge systems like, Yoga and Ayurveda in the west which have led to increased soft power of India in the world. Growing market of international tourists in the local festivals.
 - Example, while Pushkar fair still continues to be a major social and economic event for local people, it is marketed internationally as a major tourist attraction. However globalisation with increased transportation facilities within the country has led to more people to people contacts, increased international tourism especially spiritual, wellness and cultural tourism.
 - The globalisation has both positive and negative effects on culture. The cultural intermingling and exchanges have been so pervasive that today it is difficult to distinguish between indigenous or imported cultures leading to a hybrid culture - accept of foreign culture, universal values, liberal ideas, gender equality, etc.

"An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from the process of deprivation."
Substantiate this statement with suitable examples.

GS SCORE - IAS MAINS TEST SERIES (Test No. 9; Question No. 10; Dated - 29 May 2016)

Q. The poor are not simply lacking resources, but they also acquire a poverty-perpetuating value system. Do you agree? Explain your stance with examples from Indian society.

Hints:

- Many argue that poor are not simply lack resources, but also acquire a poverty-perpetuating value system because of what happens to the worldview, aspirations, and character of the children who grow up in it.
- The people in the culture of poverty have a strong feeling of marginality, of helplessness & hopelessness and dependency. They think that the existing institutions do not serve their interests and needs. Along with this feeling of powerlessness there is a widespread feeling of inferiority and personal unworthiness. Thus they don't make any effort to come out of poverty.
- People with a culture of poverty have very little sense of history. They are a marginal people who know only their own troubles, their own local conditions, their own neighborhood, and their own way of life. Usually, they have neither the knowledge, vision nor the ideology.
- They have a tendency to have short term approach, which leads to focus on consumption with little interest in education and other investment in human capital.
- But this is not completely true. It has been argued that living in conditions of prevalent poverty leads to the development of a culture or sub-culture adapted to those conditions, and characterized by prevalent feelings of vulnerability, dependency, marginality, and feebleness.
- This approach also characterizes the psyche of "blaming-the-victim" of those involved in policy making. They fail to see that many have been able to come out of poverty when provided with appropriate support system in the form of education, employment etc.
- It serves as a political tool of not providing assistance to vulnerable sections of society and diverting those resources for the benefit of rich. For example historically land acquisition has taken place at very low rates and those who have been disposed of their lands have been forced to migrate and live in slums in urban areas. Whereas, those who acquired land with government support have become rich. So such instances of poverty are not because of sub-culture but exploitation by the system.
- Therefore it is false to say that it is because of their value system that poor remain poor, but it is because of absence of efforts on the part of institutions to support such people that they are poor. For example the step of online price discovery of minor forest produce is of no relevance to ST people who don't have access to internet. Therefore there is a need to change the culture of policy making this will change the culture of poverty stricken people.

With a brief background of quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the 'Smart City Programmes'.

GS SCORE - GS MAINS TEST SERIES (Test No. 9; Question No. 14; Dated - 23 April 2016)

Q. Discuss the problems related to civic amenities in Indian urban areas. Will the concept of Smart Cities be able to handle the crisis?

Hints:

- Urban areas are the 'engines of economic growth' in a developing country like ours. According to Census 2011, approximately 31 % of the population lives in urban areas.

- Due to haphazard urbanisation in the recent time, the situation relating to civic amenities has worsened in particular. The civic amenities are the facilities provided by the governments and municipal corporations for common people like water supply, electricity, public toilets, garbage disposal, etc.
- According to the 2011 Census, amenities available with the households has been listed as follows: 87% of households are using tap, tube well, hand pump and covered well as the main source of drinking water while 43.5 percent use tap water. Only 47% of households have source of water within the premises while 36% of households have to fetch water from a source located within 500 m in rural areas/100 m in urban areas and 17% still fetch drinking water from a source located more than 500 m away in rural areas or 100 m in urban area.
- This has increased due to rural-urban migration; financial crunch which affects the provision of civic amenities both in qualitative and quantitative manner; lack of autonomy of ULBs in generating revenues; inadequate user charges for civic amenities to cover the expenses for its provision and politics of populism.
- Against this backdrop it can be said that the concept of smart cities would be able to handle this crisis of civic amenities. The notion of smart cities or habitations is a process rather than a goal. It will work for development of institutional infrastructure, physical infrastructure and social infrastructure in the cities.
- The core infrastructure elements in a smart city includes adequate water supply, assured electricity supply, sanitation, including solid waste management, efficient urban mobility and public transport, affordable housing, especially for the poor, robust IT connectivity and digitalization, good governance, especially citizen participation, sustainable environment, safety and security of citizens, particularly women, children and the elderly, and health and education, etc.
- The smart city would address the crisis of civic amenities in following way:
 - a) **E-governance & citizen services:** These would include public information & grievance redressal, electronic service delivery that would bring in transparency & hold the government accountable.
 - b) **Waste management:** This includes recycling, reuse and reduction of waste & waste to energy initiatives bringing sustainability of the cities into the mainstream of planning process.
 - c) **Water management:** This would be consisting of water meter installation, water quality monitoring & leakage information.
 - d) **Urban mobility:** This would include intelligent traffic management, integrated multi-modal transport with a mission statement of moving people & not vehicles.
- Thus, smart city mission would improve the availability of basic amenities in the cities if implemented properly.

UPSC Ques. - 12

What is the basis of regionalism? Is it that unequal distribution of benefits of development on regional basis eventually promotes regionally? Substantiate your answer.

GS SCORE - IAS MAINS TEST SERIES (Test No. 9; Question No. 9; Dated - 29 May 2016)

Q. Lack of employment in India is leading to growth of regionalism in India than the affiliation to particular region. Do you agree with the statement?

Hints:

- Regionalism describes situations in which different religious or ethnic groups with distinctive identities coexist within the same state boundaries, often concentrated within a particular region and sharing strong feelings of collective identity. Regionalism stands for the love of a particular region or an area in preference to the nation or any other region. It often involves ethnic groups whose aims include independence from a nation-state and the development of their own political power.

- In Indian context, regionalism refers to assertion of distinct ethnic, linguistic or economic interests by various groups within the nation. Since the roots of regionalism lie in linguistic, ethnic, economic and cultural identities of the people living in specific geographical area, political scholars have treated various forms of regionalism which include economic regionalism, linguistic regionalism, political regionalism and even sub-regional movements in the general frame of regionalism.
- In other words, it is the manifestation of those neglected socio-political elements which fail to find expression in the mainstream polity and culture. These feelings of frustration and anger resulting from exclusion and neglect find expression in regionalism.
- This is leading to rise of conflicts within the society more because of unequal regional development rather than affiliation for particular region.
- The friction has been more intense in states and cities where 'outsiders' have greater access to higher education and occupied more middle-class positions in government service, professions and industry and engaged in small businesses, such as small-scale industry and shop keeping.
- The economy's failure to create enough employment opportunities for the recently educated created an acute scarcity of jobs, and led to intense competition for the available jobs during the sixties and seventies. The major job opportunities that opened up after 1952 were in government service and the public sector enterprises. Popular mobilization and the democratic political process could therefore be used by the majority linguistic group to put pressure on the government to appropriate employment and educational avenues and opportunities. Some groups could then take advantage of 'the sons of the soil' sentiment for gaining political power.
- The problem was aggravated in a number of cities or regions because the speakers of the state language were in a minority or had a bare majority. For example, in Mumbai, in 1961, the Marathi-speakers constituted 42.8 per cent of the population. In Bangalore, the Kannada speakers were less than 25 per cent. In Calcutta, the Bengalis formed a bare majority. In the urban areas of Assam, barely 33 per cent were Assamese. After 1951 the rate of migration into the cities accelerated.
- Thus, the need of the hour is to develop a realistic perception of regionalism at the conceptual level focusing on righteousness and judicious outlook maintaining unity in diversity.

UPSC Ques. - 14

"The Himalayas are highly prone to landslides." Discuss the causes and suggest suitable measures of mitigation.

GS SCORE - GS MAINS TEST SERIES (Test No. 9; Question No. 12; Dated - 23 April 2016)

Q. Why Himalayas are more prone to earthquakes than Western Ghats? Locate the various seismic highways in India by drawing a map of India & discuss the mechanism of propagation of earthquake inside the earth surface.

Hints:

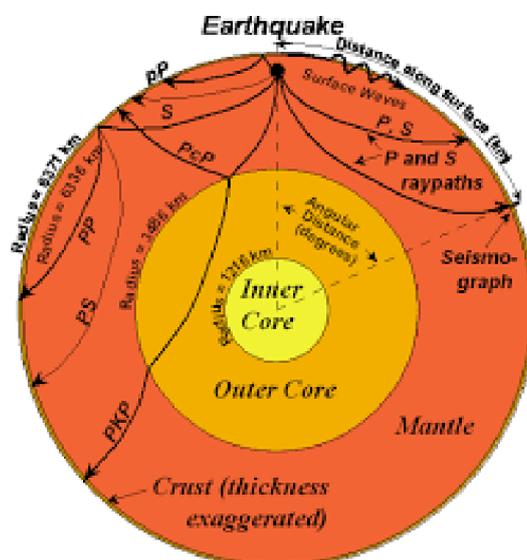
- An earthquake can be defined as a sudden violent shaking of the ground as a result of movements in the earth's crust or volcanic action. These earthquakes result from a series of earth movements brought about by a sudden release of energy during the tectonic activities in the earth's crust.
- India is prone to almost all natural disasters ranging from earthquakes, landslides, tsunami, drought, floods, and cyclones due to its varied physiography.
- The Himalayas and the Western Ghats have been formed by the plate movements and are prone to a variety of disasters including earthquakes and landslides. However, the Himalayas have more chances of earthquakes when compared to Western Ghats. The reasons are:
 - a) The Himalayas are Young - tertiary mountains whereas Western Ghats are Older-block mountain.
 - b) Himalayas has not yet reached its isostatic equilibrium which makes it more prone to frequent earth quakes but on the other hand Western Ghats are located on **stable part** of Indian plate and the chances of colliding of plates in this region are less when compared to Himalayas.

- c) Indian plate is moving northwards and subsiding under Eurasian plate, 5-10 cm a year. This leads to rising of Himalayas every year whereas Moving of Indian plate does not affect Western Ghats. This also affects the earthquakes that come in the region.
- d) Unplanned growth of houses in the hill areas increases the damage and the loss that occurs due to the disasters in the region whereas limiting the damage in Western Ghats.
- Thus, the main reason for more earthquakes in the Himalayas is due to proneness to more plate movements and due to instability of the Himalayan mountains.

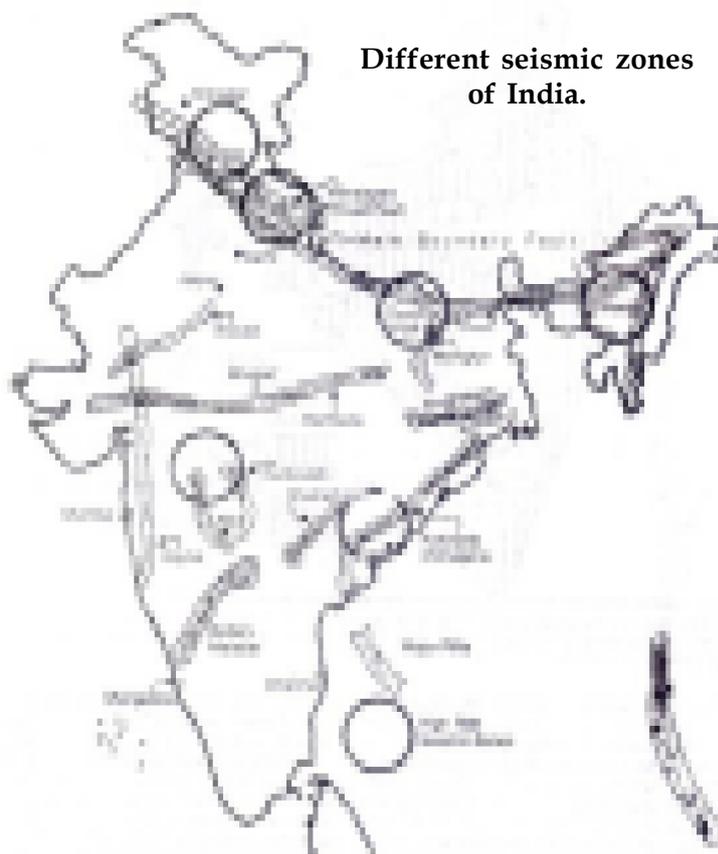
Supplementary Notes

Mechanism of propagation of earthquake inside the earth surface

- Earthquake waves are basically of two types – body waves and surface waves.
- Body waves are generated due to the release of energy at the focus and move in all directions travelling through the body of the earth. The body waves interact with the surface rocks and generate new set of waves called surface waves. These waves move along the surface. The velocity of waves changes as they travel through materials with different densities. The denser the material, the higher is the velocity. Their direction also changes as they reflect or refract when coming across materials with different densities.
- As the waves move or propagate, they cause vibration in the body of the rocks through which they pass. P-waves vibrate parallel to the direction of the wave. This exerts pressure on the material in the direction of the propagation. As a result, it creates density differences in the material leading to stretching and squeezing of the material. Other three waves vibrate perpendicular to the direction of propagation. The direction of vibrations of S-waves is perpendicular to the wave direction in the vertical plane. Hence, they create troughs and crests in the material through which they pass. Surface waves are considered to be the most damaging waves.
- The propagation of different waves is shown below:



Different seismic zones of India.



Subterranean rifts which have potential of becoming seismically active

Major cities of India are becoming more vulnerable to flood conditions. Discuss.

GS SCORE - GS MAINS TEST SERIES (Test No. 11; Question No. 4; Dated - 6 November 2016)

Q. In the past few years, urban floods are becoming regular and increasingly devastating and are largely due to human factors. Discuss with suitable examples.

Hints:

The reasons are:

- (a) **Destruction of wetlands:** Lakes and wetlands are an important part of urban ecosystem. They perform significant environmental, social and economic functions, ranging from being a source of drinking water, recharging groundwater to acting as sponges, supporting biodiversity and providing livelihoods. Destruction of wetlands leads to decreased absorbing capacity leading to floods. Ex, Hyderabad has lost 3,245 ha of its wetlands. The vast network of lakes in the city had allowed the excess water from one lake to follow into another and eventually into the Musi River. With the destruction of this network any amount of heavy rains leads to flooding of the city as seen in 2016.
 - o Bengaluru, which had 262 lakes in the 1960s, has only 10 lakes that can be called healthy.
- (b) **Concretization:** Management of Urban Flooding report, published by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in 2010, says that concretisation is a major problem in many cities and towns. Concrete jungles obstruct and encroach upon the natural flow of water bodies and create pockets that trap water, which increases the flood intensity.
- (c) **Destruction of river basin area of rivers flowing in the cities:** Natural streams and watercourses, formed over thousands of years due to the forces of flowing water in the respective watersheds, have been altered/reduced because of urbanization. There have been large scale encroachments on the natural drains and the river flood plains. Consequently, the capacity of natural drains has decreased, resulting in flooding during heavy rains. Ex three rivers in the Chennai city—Cooum, Adyar and Kosathalaiyar—are highly encroached upon and that has reduced the amount of water runoff into the Bay of Bengal.
 - o Kashmir floods of 2014 is the result of unplanned urbanization and encroachment of Jhelum flood plains decreasing its carrying capacity
- (d) **Migration:** - Explosive increase in the urban population without corresponding expansion of civic facilities such as adequate infrastructure for the disposal of waste. The sewerage generated by the people gets mixed with the water and clogs the natural channels and storm water drains leading to flooding when it receives excessive water. Guwahati's Deepor beel lake is used by the municipal corporation to dump solid waste since 2006.
- (e) **Construction of dams on the river beds:** increased water that is released from these dams floods the low lying areas in Kashmir, The deluge was the result of the dam at Srinagar, its floodgates were opened without warning and the water carried all the debris from the dam site to the city.
- (f) **Unmindful sand mining from the catchment** areas and river beds also reduce the river absorbing capacity of excess water leading to floods during heavy rains. Vembanad Lake on the outskirts of Kochi has water level halved its initial level after the mining activity.
 - According to the Union Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), 31 per cent of the country was urbanised in 2011. The ministry says almost 50 per cent of the country will be urbanised by 2050. MoUD data also suggests a 54 per cent increase in the number of cities and towns between 2001 and 2011. There is a complete disconnect between geological and hydrogeological cycle and urban planning.
 - The problem of floods in urban areas became so acute that in 2010, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) recognised urban floods as different from riverine floods. It said urban floods "happen in a relatively short period of time and can inundate an area with several feet of water".

What needs to be done:-

- (a) Urban planners should undertake a detailed mapping of water bodies, natural drainage and flood-prone areas in cities using remote sensing. And then integrate the drainage system of the city including rivers, rivulets, ponds, lakes and other natural drainage systems.
- (b) Policymakers to relook the development plans approved by city authorities and find out whether they violate the hydrological cycle of the city.
- (c) This calls for stronger laws to protect urban lakes and the setting up of a single authority for the management and restoration of water bodies.

UPSC Ques. - 16

South China Sea has assumed great geopolitical significance in the present context. Content.

GSSCORE QIP: Geopolitics importance of South China Sea.

South China Sea Dispute

The three million square kilometers South China Sea is the maritime heart of Southeast Asia but also a disputable property. Maritime boundaries in the South China Sea are particularly problematic because they involve six separate claimants in a mostly enclosed body of water with a large number of disputed land features. The South China Sea is ringed by Brunei, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam, and dotted with hundreds of small islands, shoals and reefs, many of them occupied by the disputants.

The fundamental issue in the South China Sea is one of territorial sovereignty, that is, which state has sovereignty over the islands and their adjacent waters. UNCLOS has no provisions on how to determine sovereignty over offshore islands. As there is no treaty that governs the issue of sovereignty, states have to look for guidance to the rules of customary international law on the acquisition and loss of territory.

The main disputes are:

- a) The *Spratly Islands* are claimed in their entirety by China, Taiwan, and Viet Nam, while some islands and other features are claimed by Malaysia and the Philippines.
- b) The *Paracel Islands* are claimed by China, Taiwan and Viet Nam. China forcibly ejected South Vietnamese troops from the Paracels in 1974, and they are now occupied exclusively by China. Woody Island, the largest island in the Paracels, is 2.1 km², which is about the same land area as all of the Spratly Islands combined. Woody Island is the location of Sansha City, a prefecture-level city established by China in June 2012 as its administrative centre for its claims in the South China Sea.
- c) *Scarborough Reef* is a major source of tension between China and the Philippines since the Philippines attempted arrest of Chinese fishermen in June 2012.
- d) The *Pratas Islands* are located just over 200 miles southwest of Hong Kong. They are occupied by Taiwan, and are also claimed by China.
- e) *Macclesfield Bank*, a large sunken reef that is completely submerged at low tide, is located between Scarborough Reef and the Paracels. It is claimed by China and Taiwan.

Why South China Sea (SCS) is considered so important?

The SCS is a busy international waterway, being one of the main arteries of the global economy and trade. More than **\$5 trillion of world trade ships** pass through the SCS every year.

The SCS is also resource rich, with numerous offshore oil and gas blocks.

Fishing presents another potential source of conflict. The South China Sea is the largest source of fish, an important foodstock, in each of the claimant countries. The fishing industries of each of the disputants include large numbers of vessels which travel increasingly farther from their home coasts due to overfishing in coastal waters, bringing them into disputed waters. This has led to frequent incidents of harassment of vessels, confiscation of catches and equipment, and sometimes imprisonment of fishermen.

What is the Hague-ruling ?

The arbitration was between the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China.

The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) ruled that China's claims over the waters enclosed by the 'Nine-Dash Line' had no legal basis under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

It ruled that China had no claim to historic rights to resources there, and that it had aggravated the dispute by building an artificial island on Mischief Reef, besides violating the Philippines's sovereign rights within its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), including its fisheries and petroleum exploitation.

The (PCA) further held that Entitlement to islands and the EEZ must be based on natural conditions, and not as the result of artificial augmentation by building and reclaiming land.

The tribunal further ruled that the disputed Spratly islands "cannot generate maritime zones collectively as unit" as claimed by China.

UPSC Ques. - 6

Has the formation of linguistic states strengthened the cause of Indian Unity?

GSSCORE QIP: Linguistic regionalism in India.

State Reorganization Commission

India faced its first serious federal crisis in the year 1952. The natural tensions surfaced with renewed vigor. The floodgates of linguism had opened, challenging the unitary intent of the founding leaders.

In December 1952, Potti Sriramulu fasted unto death over the issue of a separate state for Telugu speaking people. Bowing to popular pressures, the government created a separate state for Telugu people - Andhra Pradesh. Andhra's victory boosted demands in other provinces.

Government appointed a three man States Reorganization Commission (SRC) charged with 'preservation of unity and security of India'. In its findings the SRC recommended a division of India based on dominance and geographical concentration of ethno-linguistic communities.

Parliament called for a reorganization of India into 14 states, based on the criteria laid down by the SRC. At that time, the SRC refrained from dividing the provinces of Bombay and Punjab, as no neat divisions could be made along linguistic lines in these two provinces.

Government Policy

The first reorganization acknowledged India as a federation of ethnic subunits. The design for governance was based on two connected objectives:

- Relational control (guided regional policies) &
- Interlocking balances. (guided domestic politics)

The principle of interlocking balances was to secure balance among its diverse sub-nationalities. India included several nations within its borders. Therefore, the objective was to create a series of interlocking balances between proximate cultural communities (i.e., between Punjabi and Hindi speaking communities in Punjab), the homelands of such communities, and the central state (i.e., Punjab and the central government), and between the central state and its adversaries with whom it shared ethnic and religious minorities (i.e. India and Pakistan; India and Sri Lanka; India and Bangladesh).

To maintain the balances the central government was forced to yield linguistic states that would thereafter organize politics on the basis of their distinctive cultural and political identity. The linguistic reorganization of 1955-56 was an antidote to the unitary tendencies embedded in the Constitution. Once the principle of linguistic states had been accepted in 1956, the separation of Gujarati and Marathi speaking communities in Bombay, and Punjabi and Hindi speaking people in Punjab, was only a matter of time.



GS Score Test Series/QIP Comparison with UPSC GS Mains 2016

PAPER - II

UPSC Ques. - 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?

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 assent to the bill or sent it back for reconsideration or refuse to give its assent.
- 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:

- Reservation of a Bill for the consideration of the President;
- Recommendation for the imposition of the President's Rule in the State;
- Exercising his functions as the administrator of an adjoining union territory.
- In the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram the Governor determines the amount payable to an autonomous Tribal District Council.
- Seeking information from the Chief Minister with regard to the administrative and legislative matters exigencies in the following cases:
 - 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.
 - 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 Minister headed by the Chief Minister but acts, in his discretion, some of them may be cited as follows

- Maharashtra - establishment of separate development boards for Vidarbha and Marathwada.
- Assam - with respect to the administration of tribal areas.
- Establishment of separate development boards of Kutch and Saurashtra in Gujarat.
- 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 problem 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.

UPSC Ques. - 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?

GS SCORE - GS MAINS TEST SERIES (Test No. 2 Question No. 3; Dated - 6 November 2016)

Q. 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.

UPSC Ques. - 14

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

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.

UPSC Ques. - 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?

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 its 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.

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 Shiksha 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-lateral 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 governance 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

different methods, and makes no claim that any of the figures is definitive. The CAG's figures have been questioned by various people, and government shrugged of its shoulder by claiming that there was zero loss.

- 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.



GS Score Test Series/QIP Comparison with UPSC GS Mains 2016

PAPER - III

UPSC Ques. - 3

PradhanMantri Jan-DhanYojana (PMJDY) is necessary for bringing unbanked to the institutional finance fold. Do you agree with this for financial inclusion of the poorer section of the Indian society? Give arguments to justify your opinion.

GS SCORE - GS MAINS TEST SERIES (Test No. 8; Question No. 19; Dated - 9 April 2016)

Q. Financial inclusion is not merely about opening more and more bank accounts, but is rather about developing a habit among people to deposits their small savings into banks. Discuss the importance of financial inclusion in context of resource mobilization efforts of government? Also evaluate the PradhanMantri Jan DhanYojana in the context of the statement?

Hints:

- Well developed and widely spread financial system extends credit facility to those who do not have adequate finance themselves but have business ideas and zeal to carry entrepreneurial activities resulting in acceleration of growth.
- On the contrary, absence of financial penetration and deepening results in absence of debt leverage to micro enterprises and they have to either borrow at very high rates of interest or have to be contented with their own capital. This leads to restricted growth in economic activities.
- Financial Inclusion is indeed about bringing a large section of people within formal monetary system, so that overtime they would get integrated with the rest of the economy. Similarly, another objective is to boost the financial flows in economy.
- In Indian context, financial inclusion is further important to reduce leakages from the financial flows from government, whether its subsidy benefits or the NREGS payments.
- The small savings by people into formal banking or post-offices further brings new funds in market and increase the availability of money. This helps not only the corporate sector to borrow at reduced costs, it also enables Government to borrow funds without crowding-out the private sector investments.
- As small savings accounts in post offices and increased SLR funds are available for it exclusively and don't reduce the supply of credit in market. Thus, financial deepening can have a considerable impact on the resource mobilization efforts of government.

Performance of Jan Dhan Yojana

- At present, only 58% of Indian households have access to banking services, which means more than 40% of households lack access to formal credit and finance system and therefore, are forced to depend on usurious money-lenders. Furthermore, potential investors among them have no option but to put money in shady Ponzi schemes.
- A formal bank account becoming the norm will also help the government to directly pay all subsidies into the accounts of the poor and help plug the leaks. An efficient, transparent and sleek system of subsidy disbursement will help the government to better assess and implement its social welfare schemes.

- The PMJDY scheme, wishes to bring such people within formal finance and aims for expansion of financial services to hitherto unexplored territories. It has also been successful in creating a world record in terms of creating new accounts.
- As per an assessment by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the scheme has improved over the previous financial inclusion scheme, the concept of Bank Mitra was introduced much before the PMJDY, however, their availability was issue, but now as per the study, the availability has improved significantly and the intent among banks to make this scheme is clearly visible.
- It is, however, too early to declare the program an unqualified success. A few points deserve a mention here. Out of the total 136.8 million accounts, 85.9 million (63%) are still zero balance accounts. Account access alone does not create financial inclusion, which requires regular use of accounts. There is however, a high hope for that, because government is increasingly linking those accounts for subsidy transfer and pension payments leading to their increasing use as per JAM trinity objective.

Pros

- Expand banking, financial & insurance sectors
- Allow direct cash transfer to targeted beneficiaries
- Plug the leaks in subsidy system
- Ensure transparency, weed out corruption
- Cut avenues for black money generation
- Remove the influence of money lenders & Ponzi schemes
- Better data collection & assessment

Cons

- Another social welfare scheme
- Questionable viability of banking, insurance accounts
- Priority versus freebies banking
- Burden on the taxpayer

UPSC Ques. - 10

Give the vulnerability of Indian agriculture to vagaries of nature, discuss the need for crop insurance and bring out the salient features of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMGBY).

GS SCORE - GS MAINS TEST SERIES (Test No. 8; Question No. 15; Dated - 9 April 2016)

Q. Discuss, why the government's efforts towards establishing a successful crop insurance system have failed so far? Can the newly launched Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana reverse the existing dismal state of affairs; analyze the scheme on parameters of stability, inclusiveness and fiscal burden?

Hints:

- Though India has launched various crop insurance schemes such as First Individual Approach Scheme 1972-1978, Pilot Crop Insurance Scheme (PCIS) 1979-1984, Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) 1985-99 which was modified in 1999 as National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) followed by Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS), Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS), and National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP), but still the farmers have not derived benefits from insurance schemes commensurate with the cost of the premiums they have had to pay (despite government subsidy) due to various reasons:

- a) Procedures for taking out the policies and claiming compensation have been cumbersome.
 - b) Delay in receiving crop claim- limited data and quality and reliability of such data due to outdated collection models.
 - c) Availability of suitable data to assess the crop loss- India does not have a suitable weather data to assess the crop loss which results in low claims being paid to the farmers.
 - d) Crop insurance premium being too meager in amount- the amount that is received is too low to compensate for the loss of the crop.
 - e) Other major problem is that of limited land titles-leading to limited farmers' access to crop insurance, given the poor records and the frequent need to bribe officialdom to prove title even when legality is unquestioned.
 - f) Big and influential generally corner most of the claims due to political influence and better information about how such schemes work.
- Due to above mentioned Problems, barely 23 per cent of cultivators have till date opted for insurance cover.

How can Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana improve the situation?

- PMFBY has a potential to reverse the above dismal situation because it has following elements:
 - a) Presently farmers have been required to pay a premium share of as high as 15 per cent in several areas in the country; this crop insurance scheme would cap the premium at 2% for kharif crops and 1.5% for rabi crop. This would make it affordable for the farmers to buy crop insurances and therefore this scheme would bring Financial Inclusion as even small Farmers will be able to buy Agriculture Insurance due to meager contribution in Premiums.
 - b) Secondly in Earlier schemes there was a provision of capping the premium rate which resulted in low claims being paid to farmers This capping has now been removed and farmers will get claim against full sum insured without any reduction.
 - c) Thirdly, under this scheme use of technology will be encouraged and smart phones will be used to capture and upload data of crop cutting to reduce the delays in claim payment to farmers.
 - d) Another unique feature is that this insurance scheme will provide localized risk coverage and has added a number of natural calamities. For instance, given that last year, unseasonal rains during March and April had destroyed crops during the harvest season in several states, the insurance plan will now provide coverage for post-harvest losses caused owing to rain and hailstorm across India. Earlier, this was applicable only to cyclone-prone regions.
- Though PMFBY is a sound scheme if we take the Parameters of Inclusion and Stability, however, many critics believe that implementation of the scheme could lead to fiscal burden of whopping Rs 8,800 crore once the target of bringing 50 per cent crop under insurance is achieved in three years, as the Centre's financial liability goes up, the bill of the states where the scheme gets implemented will also go up correspondingly. This could have negative effect on the fiscal consolidation process of the incumbent government.
- Though it would have negative implication on the government finances, however, that price may still be worth paying for a country where only a fifth of farmers have crop insurance coverage. Subsidized premiums and prompt claims settlement enabled by remote sensing and GPS technology - as opposed to patwaris and crop-cutting experiments - should help substantially expand coverage. An increase in the area insured should also bring down premium rates, through spreading of risks across more farmers. That would also help contain the government's subsidy burden.

The frequency of urban floods due to high intensity rainfall is increasing over the years. Discussing the reasons for urban floods, highlight the mechanisms for preparedness to reduce the risk during such events.

GS SCORE - GS MAINS TEST SERIES (Test No. 7; Question No. 16; Dated - 13 November 2016)

Q. How urbanization in India is itself a cause of urban floods? Suggest measures to address the urban flood problem in Indian cities.

Hints:

Urbanization represents the higher level of living standards, secure living and enhanced availability of public services; however Indian urbanization which mostly unplanned, haphazard unregulated and overcrowded has created many challenges. Urban floods have emerged as a repetitive phenomenon in many Indian cities.

Urbanization cause of Urban floods:

- Flooding in urban areas can be caused by flash floods, or coastal floods, or river floods however, Urban flooding is specific in the fact that the cause is a lack of drainage and low sewerage capacity in an urban area. as there is little open soil that can be used for water storage nearly all the precipitation needs to be transport to surface water or the sewage system. High intensity rainfall causes flooding when the city sewage system and draining canals do not have the necessary capacity to drain away the amounts of rain that are falling. Water may even enter the sewage system in one place and then get deposited somewhere else in the city on the streets. Sometimes you see dancing drain covers.
- Encroachments on the natural drains and the river flood plains: has decreased the capacity of natural drains and resulting in flooding. These urban water bodies are no more acknowledged for their ecosystem services. Charkop Lake in Maharashtra, Ousteri Lake in Puducherry, Deepor beel in Guwahati are well known examples of encroachment.
- Clogging of stormwater drains: due to lack of proper cleaning and timing maintenance.
- Illegal mining activities: extremely damaging impact on the water body and causes uneven flow of water
- Absence of administrative framework: government apathy towards water bodies, unpreparedness for uneven rainfall and identified risk relation to pollution of wetlands, encroachment to floods.
- Too much concretization of city floor also affected the natural water cycle

Steps to be taken:

- Construction of well networked, efficient and effective drainage system to address over surface runoff in cities.
- Protection and conservation of wetlands in cities.
- Resettlement of people from flood plains of rivers and wetland areas to other places and high penalties on encroachments.
- Keeping adequate open space for subsurface recharge and land management.
- Rainwater harvesting.
- Recycling and reuse discharged water after treatment.

Better planning, robust infrastructure, comprehensive policies and vigilant administration would be the key to tackle urban floods in India.

UPSC Ques. - 20

Use of Internet and social media by non-state actors for subversive activities is a major security concern. How have these been misused in the recent past? Suggest effective guidelines to curb the above threat.

GS SCORE - GS MAINS TEST SERIES (Test No. 12; Question No. 12; Dated - 4 June 2016)

Q. "The echo of words written on social media is greater than spoken in public and therefore needs greater regulation". In light of the above statement examine the need and feasibility of such regulations. Does India need a separate social media policy?

Hints:

- Social media has become a major influence especially on the minds of young people and has captured their imagination. Its reach has increased tremendously touching the lives of millions of people at one go.

It no doubt, helps in connecting the people and has revolutionized the communication but it has also led to a lot of downfalls. It is being used in radicalization of youth by ISIS. The recent riots in Bangalore due to a fake viral video on internet of North East region, its role in Muzzafarnagar riots etc, show the powerful and draconian face of social media. It can be used to invoke extreme sentiments among vulnerable people and twisted to suit a particular line of thought.

It needs to be regulated because of the following reasons :-

- Anonymity of the uploader makes it conducive to be used by wrong forces for their benefit
- Whether a report or video is true or not, it can't be said. But people usually tend to take all the content online to be true which results in wrong consequences.
- The speed with which a content is circulated is also very high. E.g., the content of hate speeches instigating caste violence is very common.
- It endangers the security of the nation as a whole.

However, owing to the large data transmitted over internet; the speed with which it circulates; the absence of sources of internet in India; the global nature of internet and social media makes it very difficult to manage.

Supreme Court while quashing the article 66A, also asked government to come up with a new law, as there is a need for some mechanism to put checks and balances on online media.

Due to the above mentioned reasons, the Government of India has decided to come up with a National Social Media Policy to encounter the cyber security threat. which will do a round the clock monitoring of social media to remove the anti-social and provoking content.

UPSC Ques. - 4

What are 'Smart Cities'? Examine their relevance for urban development in India. Will it increase rural-urban differences? Give arguments for 'Smart Villages' in the light of PURA and RURBAN Mission.

GS SCORE QIP: Analysis of Smart city Mission with respect to village development

Analysis of Smart City Mission

What is a smart city?

Smart city may mean different things for different people and different cities, but conceptually it focus on overall urban ecosystem covering development-institutional, physical, social and economic infrastructure. The objective is to provide core infrastructure and decent quality of life by application of smart solutions.

Some features of smart city could be:

Area	Feature	Smart Solution
electricity supply	Assured, quality and environmentally sustainable	Smart metering, solar electricity generation
sanitation, including solid waste Management,		Waste water treatment, waste to energy etc.
Urban mobility	Minimum distance, optimal speed, safe, cost-effective	Intelligent traffic management, integrated multi-modal transport, smart parking
Housing	Affordable, universal	
Health & education	Affordable, universal and quality	Polyclinics, saaransh etc
environment	Clean air, preserving open spaces,	Pollution monitoring, zero discharge etc
Governance	Participative, transparent, accountable etc	e-governance, public information and grievance Redressal, participative and channelized planning process
Law and order	Quick, responsive, deterrent,	Community policing, CCTV, e-courts, e-police,
Economic development	Equitable, inclusive, according to carrying capacity and transformative with linkages	Food processing in food belts, Space for vendors etc.

What are the special features of the mission?

Smart City project focuses on making urban spaces more livable, aesthetically pleasing, socially more inclusive, environmentally sustainable, economically vibrant and administratively smart by using innovative solutions to the problems faced with application of latest technology. Some other aspects of this project are:

- It is based on comprehensive planning and people participation. SWOT analysis of the city is to be done and then projects to be decided based on the inherent potential.
- It is a competition based project in which cities compete with each other for getting selected for funding.
- Focus is on not only future urban reforms but incentivizing those cities which have undertaken reforms in past under JNNURM. 1/3 weightage has been given to past reforms during selection stage.
- Participation of all the stakeholders centers, state, Municipal Bodies is ensured.
- Both pan city project and area specific projects are to be taken.
- The area based project will be implemented through retrofitting, redevelopment and Greenfield strategies.
- Time bound implementation of the project.
- Financial viability of the project is to be ensured so that the projects don't suffer from policy changes in future and are self-sustaining.
- Focus on convergence of schemes like Digital India, Swachha Bharat, AMRUT Mission etc.
- A SPV is to be created to ensure co-ordination and implementation of the project.
- PPP mode has been chosen to raise resources and implement the projects

What is unique in this mission?

- Earlier initiatives on urban reform suffered from top down approach, failed to take in to account the local aspirations and universalisation without quality syndrome. At the core of smart city concept is the uniqueness of the project from selected city.

- Another important feature is the competition among the cities for selection. This is based on SWOT analysis and people's participation. This will give administration, local bodies to undertake proper understanding of all the positive and negative aspects of the city and will help in other areas also.
- Mission gives cities an opportunity to learn from other selected cities, from their own mistakes made during the competition. The selected smart cities can become guiding forces for others.

What are the concerns raised?

- In the development process each step should be organically linked to higher levels and should lead to value addition across the sectors. The linkages between smart cities and other initiatives like skill India, Make in India and rural mission are missing. In absence of these the mission will become a foreign industries and organization led mission and may not result into knowledge gain for India in the domain.
- Constitution assigns District Planning Committees and Metropolitan Planning Committees with the responsibilities for planning for the whole district or metropolitan area. Their role in the process is missing.
- Apprehensions are raised that Smart cities may emerge as exclusive societies or cities catering to the needs of only well off. Like the retrofit proposal of New Delhi Municipal Corporation has no mention of street hawkers and vendors in the Connaught Place area. How can a city be smart without being inclusive? Selectively smart means unsustainably extravagant on luxuries with millions living in poverty.
- Level of involvement of Indian Educational institutions like IITs and IIMs is not clear. There is too much focus on getting handholding support from foreign or multilateral agencies like JICA, KfW. There is no focus on developing indigenous capabilities in the field of urban planning and design.
- Smart cities must contain smart houses, smart offices and smart people. All these require behavioural change. There is no mention of these aspects in the mission.

Conclusion

The success of the smart city mission will depend on the ability to smartly solve the issues that will come during implementation. It is a step in the uncharted territory, each step must be taken with caution and calculation but with swiftness and confidence. The success of the mission will give future generations and cities an opportunity to look for inspiration and handholding within the country, rather than outside which we have to do in present.

UPSC Ques. - 9

Discuss the role of land reforms in agriculture development. Identify the factors that were responsible for the success of land reforms in India.

GSSCORE QIP: Land reforms and issues related to it

Agriculture - land reforms from 'abolition of zamindari to land acquisition'

The Indian Government was committed to land reforms and consequently laws were passed by all the State Governments during the Fifties with the aim of abolishing landlordism, distributing land through imposition of ceilings, protection of tenants and consolidation of land-holdings.

Independent India's most revolutionary land policy was perhaps the abolition of the Zamindari system (feudal land holding practices).

Land-reform policy in India had two specific objectives:

1. To remove such impediments to increase in agricultural production as arise from the agrarian structure inherited from the past.
2. To eliminate all elements of exploitation and social injustice within the agrarian system, to provide security for the tiller of soil and assure equality of status and opportunity to all sections of the rural population.

There are four main categories of reforms:

1. Abolition of intermediaries (Rent collectors under the pre-Independence land revenue system)
2. Tenancy regulation (to improve the contractual terms including security of tenure)
3. A ceiling on landholdings (to redistributing surplus land to the landless)
4. Attempts to consolidate disparate landholdings

After Independence, attempts had been made to alter the pattern of distribution of land holdings on the basis of four types of experiments -

1. Land reforms through legislation on the lines broadly indicated by the Central Government, enacted by the State legislators, and finally implemented by the agencies of the State Government.
2. Land reforms as in the case of Telengana and the naxalite movement also to some extent in the case of the "Land Grab" movement.
3. Land reforms through legislative enactments combined with peasant mobilization, as in the case of controlled land seizure in West Bengal and protection of poor peasants in Kerala.
4. Land reforms through permission of landlords and peaceful processions by peasants as in the case of Bhoodan and Gramdan.

The tenancy reform measures were of three kinds -

1. Regulation of rent
2. Security of tenure
3. Conferring ownership to tenants. This weakens the mindset of zamindari and promotes and establish tenancy foundation in India.

One of the significant achievements of these acts was the abolition of absentee landlordism in several parts of India. Land reforms brought about a significant change in land relations in so far as self-cultivation, rather than absentee landlordism, became a predominant mode of production.

The ultimate aim of land reforms in India is to confer the rights of ownership to tenants to the larger possible extent. Towards this end, the Government has taken three measures:

1. Declaring tenants as owners and requiring them to pay compensation to owners in suitable installments
2. Acquisition of the right of ownership by the State on payment of compensation and transfer of ownership to tenants and
3. The states' acquisition of the landlords' rights bring the tenants into direct relationship with the States.

As a result of all these measures, 92 per cent of the holdings are wholly owned and self-operated in the country today.

In spite of the progress made in this regard, the tenancy reforms are still plagued by deficiencies some of which are:

1. The tenancy reforms have excluded the share croppers who form the bulk of the tenant cultivators,
2. Ejection of tenants still takes place on several ground
3. The right of resumption given in the legislation has led to land grabbing by the unscrupulous
4. Fair rents are not uniform and not implemented in various States because of the acute land hunger existing in the country
5. Ownership rights could not be conferred on a large body of tenants because of the high rates of compensation to be paid by the tenants. The proof of continuous possession for 12 consecutive years to get occupancy rights also led to tardy implementation of tenancy reforms.

The terms 'Hot Pursuit' and 'Surgical Strikes' are often used in connection with armed action against terrorist attacks. Discuss the strategic impact of such actions.

GSSCORE QIP: DOCTRINE OF HOT PURSUIT

Overview

- Hot pursuit means crossing the International Boundary in pursuit of Terror Groups.
- The international law principle of hot pursuit is analogous to the common law principle, but was probably conceived independently. It began to coalesce into a general custom of international relations during the early years of the 20th century, although the general principle had been advanced before in national legislation such as the British Hovering Acts. The participating states at the League of Nations Codification Conference of 1930 broadly agreed on the validity of the Right of Hot Pursuit, but the proposed convention on territorial waters in which it was included was never ratified. It was finally codified as Article (23) of the Geneva Convention on the High Seas in 1958.
- The Geneva Convention on the High Seas was eventually folded into the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Article (111) of the latter treaty grants a coastal state the right to pursue and arrest ships escaping to international waters, as long as:
 - a) The pursuers are competent authorities of the state;
 - b) They have good reason to believe that the pursued ship has violated the state's laws or regulations;
 - c) The pursuit begins while the pursuing ship is in the State's internal waters or territorial waters;
 - d) The pursuit is continuous.
- If the foreign ship is within a contiguous zone, the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the Continental Shelf, and the Safety Zones in the EEZ or the Continental Shelf then the pursuit may only be undertaken if there has been a violation of the rules and regulations (customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary laws and regulations of the coastal state) as applicable in the respective regimes (areas, zones).
- The right of hot pursuit ceases as soon as the ship pursued enters the territorial sea of a foreign state.
- Where a coastal state, stopping or arresting a foreign ship outside the territorial sea on the basis of its right of hot pursuit, fails to justify the exercise, it shall be liable to compensate the ship for any loss or damage cause to it due to the exercise of this right.
- This right is particularly relevant to Fisheries management, Maritime pollution laws, and the Seaborne illegal drug trade.
- In addition, some have proposed translating the Maritime Right of hot pursuit into a comparable right to pursue criminals over land borders. Although it does not form a settled tenet of international law, the principle has been invoked by the United States regarding Taliban militants crossing into Pakistan, by Turkey regarding its attacks on Kurdistan Workers Party bases in Northern Iraq, and by Colombia regarding its raid on a Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia camp in Ecuador, which led to the 2008 Andean diplomatic crisis.

Critical Aspect

- It was in news when in June 2015 after Indian Army crossed into Myanmar territory to raid NSCN (Khaplang) camps without Myanmar's consent. Now this led to a debate.
- **Arguments in Favor**
 - a) It was done in response to attack by militants on the Indian Army in Manipur on June 4, 2015.
 - b) Every country has the Right to protect its boundary.
 - c) Myanmar's relation with NSCN(K) are warming up. It wouldn't have help us the way Bhutan and Bangladesh did.

- d) These terror outfits are taking benefits of the border i.e. after conducting strikes they went back to Myanmar knowing that Indian forces won't cross the border. In this asymmetric warfare they don't have an option.
- e) India has a reputation of respecting the sovereignty of other country, haven't invaded any till now, so won't do this unnecessarily.

Arguments Against

- a) The doctrine of hot pursuit lacks legal validity on land. It has validity only in high seas. This doctrine has been codified only for Navy to cross international waters under **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**. **But no such doctrine has been codified for state to pursue criminals crossing land border.**
- b) **As the term is open-ended/vague thus Armed Forces can use it to attack not only militants, but even armed forces thus leading to war among the Nations.**
- c) **It will set a bad precedent as other countries can also start using it to cross border.**
- d) If Myanmar had done the same vis-à-vis India then how would we have reacted?
- e) It is more to assert regional dominance and coerce neighbours.
- f) Even a possibility of military action justified by hot pursuit can fuel wide-scale humanitarian crises e.g. displacing the innocent people.

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GS Score Test Series Comparison with UPSC GS Mains 2016

PAPER - IV

UPSC Ques. - 2 (a)

What do you understand by the terms 'governance', 'good governance' and 'ethical governance'?

GS SCORE - ETHICS MOCK TEST SERIES (Test No. 2; Question No. 6; Dated - 15 April 2016)

Q. Do you agree that because of absence of commitment and responsiveness, a wide gap has emerged between "Government" and "Governance"? Discuss with respect to utilization of public funds in welfare activities.

Thinking line:

- The Administration is the cutting edge of the public administration system in the country. Be it the issue of ration or electoral identity cards, procurement of foodgrains, implementation of employment guarantee schemes, supply of drinking water, mutation of land records, functioning of primary schools and healthcare centres or control of epidemics in the countryside, it is the instrumentalities of the administration with which citizens have to interact.
- The requisites moral qualities include not only the willingness to serve the public but also the willingness to behave competently, efficiently, honestly, responsibly, objectively, fairly and accountably.
- There are laid down rules and procedures for every aspect of the government's functioning and its interaction with the common man but, due to overemphasis of it, the adequacies of fund utilization get jeopardized as accountability in the public sector has traditionally been based on compliance with rules and procedures. It didn't matter what government did as long as it observed the rules.
- The government machinery should not mainly focuses of target completion but on actual impact of it on the target beneficiary. The commitment and responsiveness to the marginalised persons are also important.

UPSC Ques. - 2 (b)

Discuss Mahatma Gandhi's concept of seven sins.

GS SCORE - ETHICS TEST SERIES (Test No. 1; Question No. 10; Dated - 26 August 2016)

Q. What is a social sin? Is there any standard definition of it? How can we abstain from social sins? And if we fail to abstain from so called social sins, what would be the consequences?

Thinking line:

- The social sin applies to every action against justice in interpersonal relationship, committed either by the individual against the community or by the community against the individual. There is no effective and standard definition of social sin till date which explicitly interprets the wider meaning of the term, however, as per its nature it can be defined as "those actions which are the results of thousands or even millions of different selfish choices by as many different people and thus is collective, an aspect of our society which doesn't resemble the kingdom of God".

- A social sin usually involves other people. However in today's changing scenario of the world have changed the dimensions of social sins which include:
 - (a) Bioethical violations such as birth control
 - (b) Morally dubious experiments such as stem cell research
 - (c) Drug abuse
 - (d) Polluting the environment
 - (e) Contributing to widening divide between rich and poor
 - (f) Excessive wealth
 - (g) Creating poverty
- For abstaining from the social sin, awareness about the sin and its consequences on oneself and society is must. This will help an individual in choosing the right path in life.
- The consequences of social sin can be felt at both the individual level as well as the societal level. For example: corruption is one of the biggest social sins in the present era. Money that is meant to benefit the people is diverted to the pockets of corrupt government officials and their conspirators. It can lead to death and damage of property when corrupt government officials allow corporations to destroy the environment that causes flooding, air pollution, and climate change.
- Similarly use of biotechnology for cloning or stem cell research have ethical implications as it contradicts the duty to prevent or alleviate suffering, and the duty to respect the value of human life.
- Hence people should abstain from involving in social sins.

UPSC Ques. - 4 (b)

How could social influence and persuasion contribute to the success of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan?

GS SCORE - ETHICS TEST SERIES (Test No. 3; Question No. 5; Dated - 4 March 2016)

Q. Persuasion is a potent weapon in hands of civil servants. Critically examine. Illustrate through one example.

Thinking line:

- Persuasion can be defined as a conscious attempt by an individual to change attitude or behavior of a group through transmission of some message.
- The civil servants have to work, generally with teams and people belonging to different departments. Persuasion has been perceived as potent weapon in the hands of civil servants through which they can encourage their team mates to work with more efficiency.
- There may be times when the team may lose its energy level, then the team leader by using his persuasion skills like appeal to reason, appeal to emotion and communication abilities can persuade his teammates to work towards their goals.
- Moreover civil servants, by setting personal examples like coming to office on time, working honestly with integrity can persuade others in the organization also.
- There have been civil servants like Sreedharan, ICS Mangat Rai, Shankaran who have been good examples in their field to persuade their co-workers using their skills and abilities.

UPSC Ques. - 5

Law and ethics are considered to be the two tools for controlling human conduct so as to make it conducive to civilized social existence.

- (a) Discuss how they achieve this objective.
- (b) Giving examples, show how the two differ in their approaches.

GS SCORE - ETHICS TEST SERIES (Test No. 1; Question No. 5; Dated - 26 August 2016)

Q. Is it necessary that 'what is ethical is also legal' and vice versa? Explain with examples.

Thinking line:

- Law can be defined as a consistent set of rules that are widely published, generally accepted, and usually enforced.
- These rules describe the ways in which people are required to act in their relationships with others in a society. They are requirements to act in a given way, not just expectations or suggestions to act in that way.
- Since the government establishes law, the government can use police powers to enforce laws.
- Ethics is the voluntary framework of guiding principles, which brings order and purpose into what would otherwise be a void between laws. Ethics are internal obligations on an individual whereas laws are external obligation.
- It is ethical to not give capital punishment as it is against the Right to life but according to law it is correct (mainly for heinous crime) for maintenance of law and order in society.
- Similarly, the law often incorporates ethical standards to which most citizens subscribe. But laws can deviate from what is ethical. For example the laws made during Britishers were unethical in theme or the old apartheid laws of South Africa.
- Hence what is ethical is also legal and vice versa are not always correct.

UPSC Ques. - 6

Our attitudes towards life, work, other people and society are generally shaped unconsciously by the family and the social surroundings in which we grow up. Some of these unconsciously acquired attitudes and values are often undesirable in the citizens of a modern democratic and egalitarian society.

(a) Discuss such undesirable values prevalent in today's educated Indians.

(b) How can such undesirable attitudes be changed and socio-ethical values considered necessary in public services be cultivated in the aspiring and serving civil servants?

GS SCORE - ETHICS TEST SERIES (Test No. 4; Question No. 3; Dated - 11 March 2016)

Q. People generally teach their children how to read, write, speak but never teach how to develop a positive thought process. Discuss the importance of teaching a healthy thinking process. Why generally it has taken a back seat in the learning process?

Thinking line:

- Parents are the most influential agents in the child's learning of morals. Mother is the first teacher and Home is the first school". The minds of children develop in the major way through the process of non - formal education at home. Parental attitudes and behavioral responses to right and wrong, good and evil, acceptable and unacceptable, set the tone and direction of the child's moral development.
- Hence in the whole process of teaching parents teaches how to read, write, speak but forget to teach the positive thinking that acts a basic ground for development of individual as a morally and ethically sound individual.
- Positive thinking aims to help people be more aware of the power of their thoughts and moods and how to manage them in order to lead happier and more successful lives. The central idea is that it is not what happens to individuals, which leads them to be happy, healthy or successful, but how they interpret what happens to them and the extent to which they believe that it is possible to influence such events.
- Whilst positive thinking has traditionally been viewed as a strategy for helping people to deal with problems, but implementation of positive thinking programmes is needed in order to improve the quality of learning and achievement in young people.

- It generally takes a back seat because children are pushed to the competition arena since childhood. It lays greater emphasis on developing memorization and reproduction abilities rather than developing oneself as an ethical person.
- Parents must guide their children to become practical heroes but not platform heroes.

UPSC Ques. - 7

Anger is a harmful negative emotion. It is injurious to both personal life and work life.

- Discuss how it leads to negative emotions and undesirable behaviours.
- How can it be managed and controlled?

GS SCORE - ETHICS TEST SERIES (Test No. 5; Question No. 2; Dated - 3 April 2016)

Q. "Anger is just anger. It isn't good. It isn't bad. It just is! What you do with it is what matters." In light of this statement and the fact that anger comes very naturally to many of us, give ways in which it can be used constructively and how can it be managed?

Thinking line:

- Anger is "an emotional state that varies in intensity from mild irritation to intense fury and rage. The instinctive, natural way to express anger is to respond aggressively and it is a natural outflow of emotions.
- But the anger can be converted or redirected. This happens when a person holds in anger, stops thinking about it, and focuses on something positive.
- Hence for managing anger following steps are needed:
 - Angry people need to become aware of their demanding nature and translate their expectations into desires.
 - Angry people tend to jump to - and act on - conclusions, and some of those conclusions can be very inaccurate. Hence, listen carefully to what the other person is saying and take time before answering.
 - Listen to what is underlying the anger.
 - Find healthier ways to express your anger.

UPSC Ques. - 9

A fresh engineering graduate gets a job in a prestigious chemical industry. She likes the work. The salary is also good. However, after a few months she accidentally discovers that a highly toxic waste is being secretly discharged into a river nearby. This is causing health problems to the villagers downstream who depend on the river for their water needs. She is perturbed and mentions her concern to her colleagues who have been with the company for longer periods. They advise her to keep quiet as anyone who mentions the topic is summarily dismissed. She cannot risk losing her job as she is the sole bread-winner for her family and has to support her ailing parents and siblings. At first, she thinks that if her seniors are keeping quiet, why should she stick out her neck. But her conscience pricks her to do something to save the river and the people who depend upon it. At heart she feels that the advice of silence given by her friends is not correct though she cannot give reasons for it. She thinks you are a wise person and seeks your advice.

- What arguments can you advance to show her that keeping quiet is not morally right?
- What course of action would you advise her to adopt and why?

GS SCORE - ETHICS TEST SERIES (Test No. 1; Question No. 14; Dated - 19 February 2016)

Q. A dispensary has been opened in a rural area. It is the sole hospital in the region and provides health care facilities to people. But the dispensary is not following the bio-medical rules and

disposes the waste in the backyard which is affecting the health of the people and also impacting the animal husbandry. You are health inspector of the region and got the complaint related to it. Answer the following:

(A) What are the options available to you?

Thinking line:

- Dispensaries generate various kinds of wastes from wards, operation theatres and out-patient areas. These wastes include bandages, cotton, soiled linen, body parts, sharps (needle, syringes etc), medicines (discarded or expired), laboratory wastes etc. which carry infection and should be properly collected, segregated, stored, transported, treated and disposed to prevent contamination and infection.
 - In the above case the dispensary is not following bio-medical rules while treating the rural people. Hence strict actions cannot be taken against it. Hence the options available are:
 - (a) Talk to the head of the dispensary and try to analyse the reasons for not following of rules. The reasons can be - shortage of manpower, shortage of equipment, etc.
 - (b) Manpower can be allotted for the work by the government or training can be provided to the medical staff for its proper disposal.
 - (c) Alongwith that a separate dumpyard can be built for disposal of bio-medical waste.
 - (d) Subsidy can be provided for setting up of incinerator for safe disposal of waste.
 - (e) Awareness campaign can be initiated in the rural area against the adverse health impact of bio-medical waste.
 - (f) Give a warning to the head of dispensary and if mistake has been repeated strict action can be taken against him (but this should be treated as last option).
- (B) Do you think that monitoring is more important than formation of rules and regulations? How to ensure the effective monitoring?

Thinking line:

- Mere formation of rules and regulations do not lead to their implementation. Time to time monitoring in different areas is must to assure that rules are been followed.
- Monitoring creates an external obligation of the entity for following the rules. As in the above case, government has made bio-medical waste handling rules but whether they are being followed or not requires monitoring.
- The people who have enlightened conscience do not need monitoring as they are aligned to ethical rules without external boundation but in the present scenario individualism is increasing and concept of common good to all is diminishing thus monitoring is must.
- For effective monitoring, firstly the training of government officers is must so that they can identify the lacunaes easily and can initiate steps to address the issue.
- Secondly public participation is must as in the above case study, Health Monitoring Committee can be formed consisting of rural people with government head to monitor the working of dispensary (also that of nearby region)

UPSC Ques. - 10

Land needed for mining, dams and other large-scale projects is acquired mostly from Adivasis, hill dwellers and rural communities. The displaced persons are paid monetary compensation as per the legal provisions. However, the payment is often tardy. In any case, it cannot sustain the displaced families for long. These people do not possess marketable skills to engage in some other occupation. They end up as low paid migrant labourers. Moreover, their traditional ways of community living are destroyed. Thus, the benefits of development go to industries, industrialists and urban communities whereas the costs are passed on to these poor helpless people. This unjust distribution of costs and benefits is unethical. Suppose you have been entrusted with the task of drafting a better compensation-cum-rehabilitation policy for such displaced persons, how you approach the problem and what would be the main elements of your suggested policy?

GS SCORE - ETHICS TEST SERIES (Test No. 8; Question No. 19; Dated - 14 October 2016)

Q.1 As adviser to the Minister of tribal affairs you have, among others, an “agenda of modernization” of the tribal people. When giving recommendations to the minister on various steps need to be taken for modernization of the tribal people what difference of approach would be required in this case from an agenda of modernization of general population? Enlist five priorities for modernization of the tribal population that you would like to recommend to the Minister.

Thinking line:

- Tribal development should be viewed not merely in terms of material needs but equally or even more so in relation to non-material needs such as the right to live with freedom, human dignity and self-respect. Hence, a multi-dimensional approach to 'tribal development' with the basic concepts of ecology, environment, human resources and protection of human rights should be incorporated.
- The approach should be such that:
 - (a) People should develop along the lines of their own genius and we should try to encourage in every way their own traditional arts and culture.
 - (b) Tribal rights in land and forest should be respected.
 - (c) We should try to train and build up a team of their own people to do the work of administration and development. Some technical personnel from outside will, no doubt, be needed especially in the beginning. But we should avoid introducing too many outsiders into tribes.
 - (d) We should not over administer these areas or overwhelm them with a multiplicity of schemes. We should rather work through, and not on rivalry to, their own social and cultural institutions.
- Thus to meet this approach following steps can be taken:
 - (a) Initiate a livelihood development programmes such as initiation of financial inclusion drive or formation of self help groups to improve their suitable skills.
 - (b) Provide a basic education ground for all people and create awareness about their rights provided under different laws, programmes and policies.
 - (c) Help them in using their indigenous knowledge for improving crop yield to maintain food security in the long run.
 - (d) Provide vocational education.

GS SCORE - ETHICS TEST SERIES (Test No. 6; Question No. 20; Dated - 25 March 2016)

Q.2 You are a Tribal officer of Jharkhand. Once you visited a tribal region. You noticed that poverty, hunger, malnutrition and impoverishment have been the perennial problems for them. With your team efforts, you initiated a development drive there by providing subsidised foods, primary education and health facilities.

But you were shocked to see that they had rejected these subsidies and asked for livelihood amenities to live a respected life, not on charity.

(A) What would be your reaction to the above situation?

Thinking line:

- In the above situation the tribal people want a sustainable livelihood tool rather than charity in form of subsidies which may help for short term goal but fail to initiate a growth driven society.
- You may call a meeting with the leader of the tribal society to understand their viewpoints. This will help in understanding the different dimensions of the issue.

(B) What steps would you initiate to improve their livelihoods?

Thinking line:

The steps can be taken are:

- (a) Initiate a livelihood development programmes such as initiation of financial inclusion drive or formation of self heal groups to improve their suitable skills.
 - (b) Provide a basic education ground for all people and create awareness about their rights provided under different laws, programmes and policies.
 - (c) You can help them in using their indigenous knowledge for improving crop yield to maintain food security in the long run.
 - (d) You can help them in vocational education related to low level skills so that they can initiate cottage industries.
 - (e) You can initiate a process for establishing a village mandi for selling of minor forest produce and can initiate a process of placing their art and culture in different Melas and trade fairs.
- All the above stated process may help in improving their livelihoods in long term.

UPSC Ques. - 11

Suppose you are an officer in-charge of implementing a social service scheme to provide support to old and destitute women. An old and illiterate woman comes to you to avail the benefits of the scheme. However, she has no documents to show that she fulfils the eligibility-criteria. But after meeting her and listening to her you feel that she certainly needs support. Your enquiries also show that she is really destitute and living in a pitiable condition. You are in a dilemma as to what to do. Putting her under the scheme without necessary documents would clearly be violation of rules. But denying her the support would be cruel and inhuman.

(a) Can you think of a rational way to resolve this dilemma?

(b) Give your reasons for it.

GS SCORE QUESTION: (ETHICS WORKBOOK (Test No. 3; Question No. 3)

Q. You are head of an organization which has a large public interface. One day an old man approaches you and complaints that one asstt. incharge of old age pension scheme is demanding Rs 100=00 from him for clearing his pension claims. He has further revealed that this is a common practice in this office and those who do not pay the bribe money, are harassed.

You have become very upset with the state of affairs and want to solve the problem of the old man along with bringing some qualitative changes in the work culture of the organization, for better service delivery.

(A) What are the options available to you?

(B) Evaluate each of these options and choose the option which you would adopt giving reasons.

Thinking line:

Such wrong practices in any organization of demanding for bribes do not culminate over a day but over a period of months and years. The various options available with the head to set things right are-

- (a) He should try to arrive at the root cause of problem as in such cases there is a nexus within the organization. Without going to the deeper cause, proper solution cannot be find out.
- (b) He can create a vigilance cell to trap the case as to why the things are going wrong but this is a time taking procedure.
- (c) The head can also himself go for the inspection of officials that why such a wrong environment is prevalent in the organization. This involves a personal investigation on his part.
- (d) The pension money can directly by transferred to the accounts of the beneficiaries. But this requires that they should have a bank account and putting the things, into action for first time is a cumbersome process. But once it starts function, it will decrease corruption.

- (e) The head can consult the beneficiaries, ask them about the problems they are facing.

The suggested course of action for the head should be first to arrive at the root cause as to why such wrong practices are culminating in the organization. To reduce the cases of corruption and bribe taking, the suggested step is to transfer the pension directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries so that leakages do not occur. The beneficiaries should be consulted time in between and their cooperation should be ensured to correct the things.

UPSC Ques. - 12

You are a young, aspiring and sincere employee in a Government office working as an assistant to the director of your department. Since you have joined recently, you need to learn and progress. Luckily your superior is very kind and ready to train you for your job. He is a very intelligent and well-informed person having knowledge of various departments. In short, you respect your boss and are looking forward to learn a lot from him.

Since you have a good tuning with the boss, he started depending on you. One day due to ill health he invited you at his place for finishing some urgent work.

You reached his house and before you could ring the bell you heard shouting noises. You waited for a while. After entering the house the boss greeted you and explained the work. But you were constantly disturbed by the crying of a woman. At last, you inquired with the boss but his answer did not satisfy you. Next day, you were compelled to inquire further in the office and found out that his behaviour is very bad at home with his wife. He also beats up his wife.

His wife is not well educated and is a simple woman in comparison to her husband. You see that though your boss is a nice person in the office, he is engaged in domestic violence at home.

In such a situation, you are left with the following options. Analyse each option with its consequences.

- (a) Just ignore thinking about it because it is their personal matter.
- (b) Report the case to the appropriate authority.
- (c) Your own innovative approach towards the situation.

GS SCORE - ETHICS MOCK TEST SERIES (Test No. 1; Question No. 16; Dated - 8 April 2016)

Q.1 A complaint is received in the late night in a local police station of a major city by a woman who is professionally well placed regarding domestic violence by her husband who is a senior government official living in a posh apartment. The woman was very scared and she said she was alone and in a SOS condition and cannot talk more.

- (A) The police officer in Charge is reminded of a similar event in which a young but senior police officer threw his wife from the balcony of a high rise building in a rage of anger and later killed himself by his service revolver. He is clueless how to act fast. What is the intelligent course of action for the police officer immediately and in medium term to stop mis-happenings whatsoever?**
- (B) When both husband and wife are educated and professionally well settled in their careers, the crisis is more of a moral and ethical nature arising due to lack of flexibility to adjust with each other. Since such cases are on the rise due to economic empowerment and freedom, what could be done at institutional level to help such estranged couples?**
- (C) What is the limitation of legal courses to reduce domestic violence and will it be better and more effective to resort to counseling by a social and psychiatric clinics to resolve the cases of domestic violence and why?**

Thinking line:

- (a) In SOS conditions the first thing that is to be noted is that taking more reaction time can lead to fatal violence even death; this means that in his talk with the woman, he should first clearly ask about her location and address. Thereafter the police officer should rush to the place of occurrence with

sufficient number of supporting police staff and not alone (impulsive and emotional rush for a police officer may be counterproductive and fatal). Mean while he must connect with other nearby police posts to get prepared for additional enforcement if needed. A police officer does not always have immediate solutions to a problem, so first he must try to take the victim woman at a safer place in police custody to save her life and wait till he is clear about what would be next line of action. Some police officers would prefer to take the violent man instead, but then it would require that woman in shock and fear should not be let alone at her residence. One possible action in the medium term is to present the perpetrator of domestic violence in court of justice where suitable remedies would be decided according to the law on domestic violence.

- (b) The problem of domestic violence rising in number is because the male dominated society is not accustomed and fully prepared to deal with empowered and freer women who are educated and economically independent. From the women side also, they probably do not know what and how much to do with the new found empowerment and freedom. The bond between men and women can never be weaker or stronger simply because of level of education and earning (career), but also on realizing the art of life and living based on interdependence and complementarity in the relationship and accordingly striking a balance, adjustment, accommodation etc. between the couples. Thus law can only punish for domestic violence for deterrence and advice through family courts for reconciliation, but eventually counseling and psychiatric help can go a long way. The education system should also equip men and women how to live better with more power and freedom.
- (c) About problems arising due to moral and ethical crisis, a police officer has limited scope to rectify the aberrations because such things require longer duration to give good pieces of advice, inculcate and practice, which a resident welfare association, family courts, counselors and psychiatrists can do better. All what a police officer can do efficiently is that he can stop further damage to the life of the victim and provide her security. If the perpetrator of the domestic violence is an alcoholic or a drug addict, police should take his case as mental sickness and not solely as crime to decide the future course of action and the degree of harshness of action. If police department in the area has provision of de-addiction centre, such men should be facilitated to join and get treatment (as Kiran Bedi did during her tenure in Delhi).

GS SCORE - ETHICS TEST SERIES (Test No. 5; Question No. 13; Dated - 16 October 2015)

Q.2 It is usually treated that education plays a very important role in life. We are incomplete without a good education because education makes us right thinker and correct decision maker. Education is the solution of any problem, it is only education which promotes good habits, values and awareness towards anything like terrorism, corruption and much more. Then why the cases of domestic violence or assault of domestic maid or child sexual abuse, etc. are heard in higher society? What are the faults in the present education system which has made person professionally sound but personally unsound and decreased their humanity?

Thinking line:

- The erosion of human values in our society today has become a phenomenon. There is a maddening pursuit to accumulate wealth, power and status to the total exclusion of humanness in us. In the real life situations people are swayed by narrow parochial considerations and there the situation is marked by violence, greed, thefts, drug addiction and terrorism etc. Our institutions of learning are preparing efficient individuals, but not good citizens or humans.
- The present educational system with all its complexities and intricacies has proved to be deficient in so far as it neglects or does not give the deserving importance to values in human life.
- Each individual stakeholder in the education system - student, teacher, parent, management and support staff do not realizes its inherent worth for the well-being of the learners.
- The education system is based on curriculum decided by the higher authority without participation of different stakeholders. Further the autonomy of institutions has been decreased. Due to which the value based education has been neglected. Further due to increment in competition at each step the values and ethics has taken a back seat and everyone is racing for accumulating fast diminishing resources.
- Parents also assess the capabilities of their children in terms of marks and degree and not as an ethical individual. The same is with society. Due to this the value system is decreasing in society even though education level is increasing in India.

- Parents are the most influential agents in the child's learning of morals. Mother is the first teacher and Home is the first school". Parental attitudes and behavioural responses to right and wrong, good and evil, acceptable and unacceptable, set the tone and direction of the child's moral development. Hence from his earliest years the child should be introduced to the right behaviour to make him a humane person.

UPSC Ques. - 13

ABC Ltd. is a large transnational company having diversified business activities with a huge shareholder base. The company is continuously expanding and generating employment. The company, in its expansion and diversification programme, decides to establish a new plant at Vikaspuri, an area which is underdeveloped. The new plant is designed to use energy efficient technology that will help the company to wave production cost by 20%. The company's decision goes well with the Government policy of attracting investment to develop such underdeveloped regions. The Government has also announced tax holiday for five years for the companies that invest in underdeveloped areas. However, the new plant may bring chaos for the inhabitants of Vikaspuri region, which is otherwise tranquil. The new plant may result in increased cost of living, aliens migrating to the region disturbing the social and economic order. The company sensing the possible protest tried to educate the people of Vikaspuri region and public in general that how its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy would help overcome the likely difficulties of the residents of Vikaspuri region. In spite of this the protests begin and some of the residents decided to approach the judiciary as their plea before the Government did not yield any result.

- Identify the issues involved in the case.
- What can be suggested to satisfy the company's goal and to address the residents' concerns?

GS SCORE - ETHICS TEST SERIES (Test No. 2; Question No. 11; Dated - 18 September 2015)

Q.1 Corporate governance can be considered as an environment of trust, ethics, moral values and confidence - as a synergic effort of all the constituents of society - that is the stakeholders, including government; the general public, etc; professional/service providers - and the corporate sector. One of the consequences of a concern with the actions of an organization, and the consequences of those actions, has been an increasing concern with corporate governance. Corporate governance is therefore a current buzzword, the world over. One of the implications of this current concern however is that this is a new phenomenon - one which has not been of concern previously, i.e., the issues of socially responsible behavior. In this light discuss:

- The idea of corporate governance.
- What is the purpose and limitations of corporate social responsibility?
- How corporates' can be more socially responsible?

Thinking line:

- Corporate Governance refers to the way a corporation is governed. It is the technique by which companies are directed and managed. Corporate Governance ensures transparency, which ensures strong and balanced economic development.

Benefits of Corporate Governance:

- Good corporate governance ensures corporate success and economic growth.
- Good corporate governance also minimizes wastages, corruption, risks and mismanagement.
- It ensures that organization is managed in a manner that fits the best interests of all.

In another words: Corporate governance refers to the set of systems, principles and processes by which a company is governed. They provide the guidelines as to how the company can be directed or controlled such that it can fulfill its goals and objectives in a manner that adds to the value of the company and is also beneficial for all stakeholders in the long term. Stakeholders in this case would include everyone ranging from the Board of Directors, management, and shareholders to customers, employees and society. The management of the company hence assumes the role of a trustee for all the others.

- (B) Corporate Social Responsibility is a management concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and interactions with their stakeholders. CSR is generally understood as being the way through which a company achieves a balance of economic, environmental and social imperatives, while at the same time addressing the expectations of shareholders and stakeholders. In this sense it is important to draw a distinction between CSR, which can be a strategic business management concept, and charity, sponsorships or philanthropy. Even though the latter can also make a valuable contribution to poverty reduction, will directly enhance the reputation of a company and strengthen its brand, the concept of CSR clearly goes beyond that.
- (C) Finding the potential for mutual value creation is not always straightforward. The key is finding symmetry between the two sides and being open enough to understand issues both from a business and a societal perspective.

GS SCORE - ETHICS TEST SERIES (Test No. 6; Question No. 7; Dated - 2 October 2015)

Q.2 There is a distillery unit which is manufacturing one of the best brands of liquor in a remote tribal area. The unit has come into existence after the villagers provided their lands to the management at a concessional rate. The unit is earning reasonably good revenue. What type of social responsibilities and initiatives are expected from the management of the unit?

Thinking line:

- Increasing number of companies are now realizing that they need to be good neighbours for the community where they are located.
- The management of the unit should initiate following actions to take some social responsibility.
 - (a) The unit can conduct programmes like adult literacy, primary education, family planning, health care for the poor tribal village communities located around the unit.
 - (b) It can also set up an Adivasi Centre for culture and sports to preserve the traditional culture of the tribal people.
 - (c) It can also establish educational institutions for girl child.
 - (d) The unit could participate in some training activities through which some income generation for tribals could be ensured.
 - (e) The liquor should not be distributed within the tribal region especially among youngsters.

GS SCORE - ETHICS TEST SERIES (Test No. 7; Question No. 14; Dated - 30 October 2015)

Q.3 Industries generally have little concern about the environmental consequences of industrial processes. Industrialists influence the environmental policy-implementation process either directly or through business lobbies and representatives of the business interests concerned. Hence pressure by industrial associations during consideration of Acts result in a weakening of the penalties for non-compliance. In the developing nation like India, the elites are allowed to misuse the resources or change policy formulation and implementation process as per their need, as they contribute for the growth of nation which in turn leads to poverty alleviation and employment growth. Discuss the issues related to business ethics involved in the above case study.

Thinking line:

- All businesses have impact on the environment: they emit pollution, they produce waste and use resources. Many companies discharge waste into bodies of water, like ponds. Sometimes this is relatively harmless to the ecosystem, but increasing the amount of waste could become too toxic for some of the organisms. If the toxins kill certain plants in a pond, then many fish could die. This in turn could frustrate fishermen who make a living by catching fish in the pond. All of the damage done to the pond, fish, and fishermen are “externalities” or “spillover” – costs to third parties. Business transactions aren’t always just transactions between two people during trade. Sometimes other people and nonhuman animals are also harmed by business transactions.

Such activities are unethical and immoral.

- Businesses have traditionally shown egregious indifference towards the environment. Environmental protection was rarely seen as an issue. A company would harm the environment to whatever extent was profitable, and they often harmed the environment despite the fact that it was unwarranted to do so.

- But on the other hand it is almost impossible to do no harm to ecosystems in business because we need the Earth's resources to conduct business and sell products, and many companies have no choice but to dispose of waste and pollute one way or another.
- Hence a balance should be maintained between development and environmental conservation. But the industries act as lobby and changes the rules and regulations according to their requirements or delay the implementation of rules to meet their ends.
- We can protect the environment by implementing stricter standards on companies and limit the amount of pollution allowed, and we can try to heal the environment and do what is necessary to restore it back to a balanced state. Of course, the costs of protecting and helping the environment can be expensive, and people don't want to pay those costs. At this point business ethics come to play an important role.
- The industries can contribute for environmental conservation by offering special credit products for investment in energy efficiency, renewable energies and other environmentally-related activities.

UPSC Ques. - 14

Saraswati was a successful IT professional in USA. Moved by the patriotic sense of doing something for the country she returned to India. Together with some other like-minded friends, she formed an NGO to build a school for a poor rural community.

The objective of the school was to provide the best quality modern education at a nominal cost. She soon discovered that she has to seek permission from a number of government agencies. The rules and procedures were quite confusing and cumbersome. What frustrated her most was the delays, callous attitude of officials and constant demand for bribes. Her experience and the experience of many others like her deterred people from taking up social service projects.

A measure of Government control over voluntary social work is necessary. But it should not be exercised in a coercive or corrupt manner. What measures can you suggest to ensure that due control is exercised but well meaning, honest NGO efforts are not thwarted?

GS SCORE - ETHICS TEST SERIES (Test No. 7; Question No. 13; Dated - 30 October 2015)

Q. You are attached to an NGO related to education as a teacher. With the help of the NGO, you want to start school for children living on street and of roadside vendors who cannot afford education. You have started creating awareness about the programme to the people, but you were shocked to see the response of people as they declined the proposal. They did not trust you because of their past experience in which NGO used their names just for getting foreign aid and did not implement any welfare activity at the ground level.

The numbers of NGOs are increasing day by day in India but the change that should have brought is missing.

(A) What are the ethical issues involved in the working of NGOs?

Thinking line:

- NGOs in the country assume a conspicuous role in multifarious developmental programmes and activities. The achievements and success of NGOs in various fields and the excellent work done by them in specific areas is no doubt a tremendous task that has helped to meet the changing needs of the social system. However, in spite of its achievements in various fields, cases of various NGOs have come up which have worked against the ethical values.
- Some of the unscrupulous elements have made fortunes by floating NGOs for their personnel gains and managing grants from the government as stated in the above case study. It is a common experience that there have been serious charges of misuse and misappropriation of funds received as grants-in-aid from the government, foreign donors and raised through their own resources by the most of the NGOs.

- The reasons for the failure of a large number of NGOs to come up to the desired level of expectation are numerous. The major argument against many NGOs is: they are the creation of funding agencies and hence 'their entire existence, not merely dependency, is on donor money, almost always from above. Being a 'favoured child' of western donors, they are capable of exerting pressure on national governments with enormous power in terms of money, technology and knowledge.
- Further several retired government officials, politicians and people with vested interests have formed NGOs or GONGOs (Government-Operated NGOs). This extraordinary mushrooming hardly enhances the ideology of civil society activism as NGOs now are formed 'to compromise with donor's likes and dislikes and even to fudge data to suit the clients needs'. It is unfortunate to learn that many of the new generation of Project NGOs create hypothetical beneficiaries for meeting targets within a stipulated period.
- The patron-client relationship emerging out of such a model of development raises numerous questions about the accountability and legitimacy of NGO activity. A 'puppet' NGO, in spite of its best records, is bound to betray the very spirit of civil society activism and replace accountability by accountancy.
- It appears that reliability and sustainability of NGO activities, the two distinguishing criteria for their success, are hardly fulfilled in many instances.
- Due to the above stated ethical issues involved in the functioning of NGOs people are reacting sceptical to the NGOs.
- As in the above case people has denied educational help as with the past experience they know that they are just being numbers in databook of NGOs and the change at ground level will be minimum. Further exploitation of people (children and women) by NGOs on name of charity is also widespread.
- It seems that NGOs often indulge in a double standard. Thus, on the one hand, they argue for transparency and democratic participation while criticizing the state/bureaucracy for their failure to do so. But, while discharging their duties, they themselves fail to observe such norms.
- The need for transparency in dealings, democratic accountability in transactions, and sensitivity to the concerns and aspirations of the people they serve has forced some to argue for a code of conduct for NGOs. But code of conduct work only on ethical people as they follow the rules and regulations hence ethics at individual level counts more.

(B) Though the purpose of foreign aid is genuine, then also it breeds corruption. Do you agree? Analyse.

Thinking line:

- The foreign aid aims at removing the impediments in developing countries and to provide basic amenities to the people. This purpose looks genuine.
- But mostly the purpose behind it is of influence i.e. using soft power to mould the developing country towards their larger goal.
- Further the accountability and transparency of the utilisation of funds are missing which breeds corruption. The donor either gives tied funds (to be used in particular scheme) or untied.
- The outcomes are usually flaunted in the reports to allow flow of foreign aid continuously. This further reduces the accountability of the field departments of using the fund appropriately.

(C) How the trust deficit between citizen and NGOs can be decreased in the above case study?

Thinking line:

The suggestions are:

- (a) A short term training programme for strengthening the managerial capabilities of NGOs will go a long way in improving their performance and effectiveness significantly.
- (b) The overdependence of NGOs on funding agencies and the syndrome of dependency should be reduced by involving the government directly in funding activities.

- (c) Donor agencies should also take active initiation in selecting the funding projects and even selecting of NGOs too. The working of NGOs relies on the ethical values of the Management hence it should be selected properly.
- (d) The NGOs should be given license and fund by government by seeing their past records and mission and vision of organisation.
- (e) The donor agencies should go for surveying the viable projects for NGOs and the needs of the people meet the local needs rather than just completing targets.
- (f) Proper monitoring the activities of the NGOs and the enterprises run under the umbrella is the need of the hour. Therefore, the NGOs should also accountable for the funds on the one hand and the beneficiaries on the other.

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GS SCORE