

**MOCK TEST PAPER - 2**

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Q	Marks	Instructions to Candidate
1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There are 25 questions.</li><li>All questions are compulsory</li><li>The number of marks carried by a question is indicated against it.</li><li>Answer the questions in <b>NOT MORE THAN 150</b> words each. Contents of the answer is more important than its length.</li><li>Answers must be written within the space provided.</li><li>Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.</li></ul>
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1. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

2. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name ANKUR TIWARI

Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date 01/01/2016Signature Ankur Tiwari

# REMARKS

**GS SCORE**  
MOCK TEST SERIES 2016

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# Improve your handwriting

Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_

**GS SCORE**  
MOCK TEST SERIES 2016

Q1. The Union government recently drafted the treatment on terminally ill patients (protection of patients and medical practitioners) bill 2016. What is the importance of this bill in the context of extending human rights? Comment. (10 Marks)

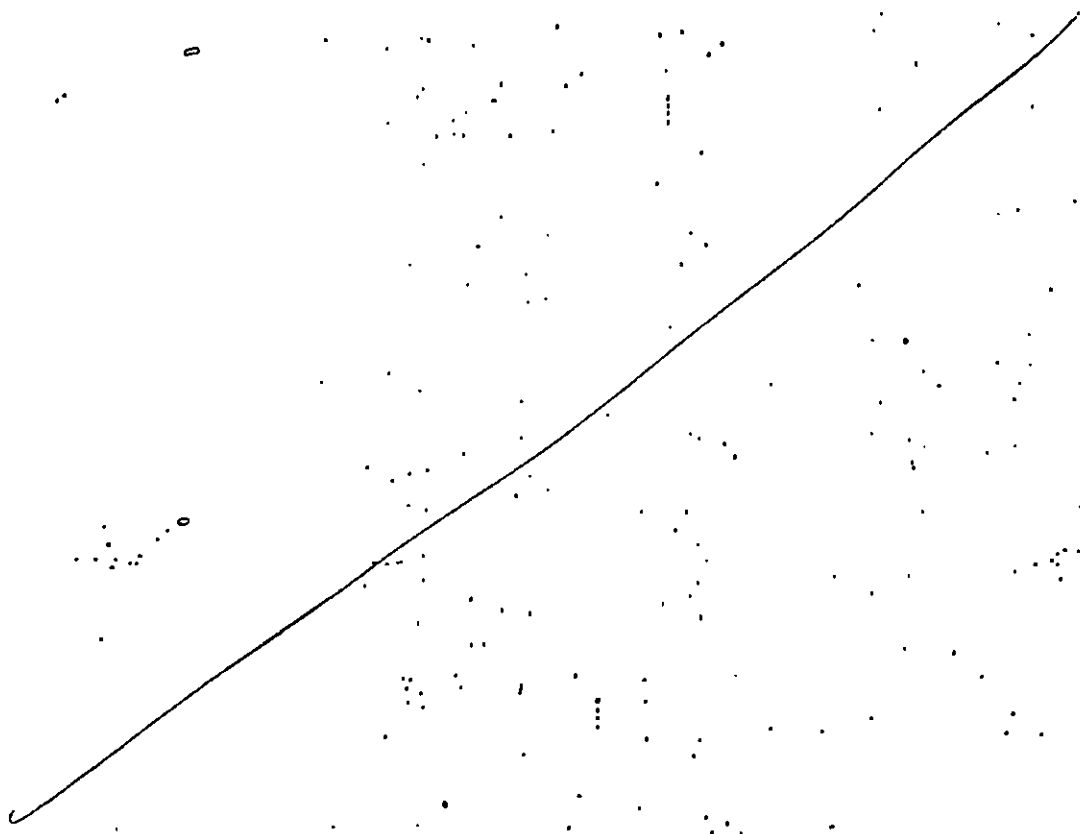
**Importance**  
The 'right to health' and 'right to dignity' has been recognised as part of 'right to life' under article 21 of the Indian constitution, as enunciated in judgements of the Supreme Court. Universal Declaration of Human Rights also incorporate 'right to health' as 'inalienable right'. This 'right to health' includes treatment of terminally ill patients to preserve / protect their health and enable a dignified life in case of terminal illness. The Union government recently drafted the treatment of terminally ill patients (protection of patients and medical practitioners) bill, 2016. Primary stakeholders in this bill are the terminally ill patients, the doctors / professionals administering healthcare, and the state (Union government). This bill advances human rights in enabling medical practitioners to do their 'duty' of helping the sick without fear of prosecution, assures the patients right to dignified life (palliative care) and assures protection of rights of both the terminally ill patients and medical practitioners taking care of them. As such, it is a good start.

Remarks

in context of

Avoid superficial ans.

Precisely discuss about Passive Euthanasia challenges in potential implementation.



*Remarks*

Precisely explain them

Q2. India has achieved the political justice, but not the social and economic justice. Illustrate the steps required to be taken towards its fulfillment. (10 Marks)

By assuring 'one man, one vote, one value' in ~~the~~ Constitution, India has achieved political justice. However, assurances of social justice (equality of <sup>status</sup> ~~resources~~ and resources) and economic justice (equality of resources and opportunity) have not been achieved even 69 years after independence. Some of the steps that can be taken to achieve these objectives are -

Provisions for Pol. Justice

SOCIAL JUSTICE

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

- ① Better awareness creation ( <sup>use of</sup> ~~use of~~ ~~media~~ ~~ad~~ ~~campaigns~~ )
- ② Behavioural modification ~~through~~ ~~social~~ ~~persuasion~~ ~~through~~ ~~behavioural~~ ~~insights~~ ~~team-nudge~~ ~~concept~~
- ③ Economic empowerment of socially disadvantaged
- ④ Preventing ghettoisation in our settlements
- ⑤ Better enforcement of preventive laws, etc. ex (SC 1st (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989)

- ① faster economic growth
- ② ~~progress~~ ~~taxation~~ ~~and~~ ~~redistribution~~ ~~of~~ ~~national~~ ~~income~~
- ③ Investment in infrastructure - ~~both~~ ~~social~~ ~~and~~ ~~physical~~
- ④ Availability of credit to economically marginalised people to ~~start~~ ~~remunerative~~ ~~activities~~
- ⑤ Skill development, start-up ~~ecology~~, etc need to be ~~focused~~ ~~on~~

Remarks

More specific suggestions required

Economic and social empowerment are mutually reinforcing and advancement or steps taken for that of either will help achieve the other. As guaranteed by preamble to the constitution, achievement of social and economic justice should be our primary concern in the 21st century.

31

Remarks

Precisely explain as intro.

Q3. Illustrate the role of Microfinance in rural development? Also explain why the microfinance model, which was once considered as a force of development, became a tool of exploitation? (10 Marks)

Back of funds of <sup>inadequacy</sup> ~~of~~ formal sector credit is said to be a major factor hindering rural development. Micro-finance is considered a force of development because it tackles <sup>issues</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>caused</sup> at lack of credit. Credit is needed for investment in agriculture, working capital needs, to meet exigencies of health, weather, unemployment, marriage, death, etc. Generally, these loans are for small amounts like 1000 Rs and ~~not~~ have short terms. So they come under micro credit or micro-finance. Even these small amounts were earlier borrowed from moneylenders at usurious rates which caused great hardship. Formal sector banks did not cater to micro finance needs in rural areas as cost of servicing these credits and transaction costs were high. This is where micro finance institutions came in leveraging technology, handheld devices, banking (by term) correspondent networks of locals who know their clients to both reduce transaction (service cost and credit risk). This expanded the reach of formal sector credit and contributed to rural development.

Remarks  
Discuss constructive role in context of women emp, SHGs, Poverty alleviation, Unemployment, etc.

Discuss aspects in short paras.

Avoid casual approach and be precise with your content

Of late, it is reported that they have become a tool of exploitation. Some reasons for this are-

- ① marketing of unwise investment products.
- ② chit fund scams like Saradha scam in West Bengal and Odisha.
- ③ Use of social networks to ensure repayment of credit by hankers which cause humiliation and loss of standing.

3 These issues need to be tackled to remove perceptions of tool of exploitation and realise the effects of force of micro-development that microfinance is.

Unethical means for loan recovery.

High interest rates

Remarks



Q4. The 74th Amendment is crucial to the strengthening of key public delivery channels, and unfortunately has not been accorded with the importance it deserves. Analyze. (10 Marks)

~~The~~ 74th Amendment, dealing with urban local governance is crucial to the strengthening of key public delivery channels. Reasons for this are -

- Principle of subsidiarity - That tier of government should be assigned the function which can do it best.
- Urban governance and key public delivery channels operate with an interface with the public and need to operate in a free, bound, transparent and accountable manner which can be insured with effective public scrutiny. As such, urban local bodies become the ideal instrument.
- Participation of people is key for democracy and people participate most actively in local issues concerning them.

Unfortunately, in the 74th Amendment has not been accorded the importance it deserves. This is due to -

- ① Devolution of power - The Amendment prescribes a list in the 12th Schedule for devolution to urban local bodies (ULB's) but leaves it to the states to decide what powers to actually devolve. State governments are reluctant to devolve power so ULB's are left powerless as

Remarks

10  
Include more issues and challenges

- (2) Sources of finance - Tax resources devolved, tax collection subjects allotted to ULB's, revenue loss (due to ~~deductions~~ for subsidisation); loss of autonomy are factors emasculating the ~~74th Amendment~~ role of mayor - need of mayor is directly elected mayor with powers and resources accountable for outcomes.
- (3) Public engagement - ~~Local cluster performance erodes faith and engagement of people with ULB's.~~

In the context of increasing urbanisation ~~and increasing~~ urban public delivery channels, ULB's and effective operation of ~~74th Amendment~~ is key.

Case in point in role accorded to ~~smart~~ ULB's as essential implementing authorities in 'Smart City' Project

32  
Remarks

First analytically discuss the Judicial Activism through PILs, SLPs and TR.

Constitutional safeguards to Judiciary

GS SCORE  
MOCK TEST SERIES 2016

Q5. "Even though the Indian system is based on division of power, it is skewed in favor of judiciary, which is not ready to accept any check and balance on its powers." Critically analyze.

(10 Marks)

Indian federation like ~~any other~~ incorporates the concept of 'checks and balances' between institutions of ~~democracy~~ and separation of powers. ~~But~~ BUT recent judgement of Supreme Court striking down National Judicial appointments commission suggests a ~~skew in favour~~ of judiciary, which is not ready to accept any check and balance on its powers. This argument has some merit. Judiciary should be immune from interference of executive and legislature to maintain its independence which is vital for dispute resolution in democracy. (Basic features doctrine of Keswanand Bharti case, 1973) But the ~~judicially innovated power~~ to appoint its own member and a predominant say in it. (2nd Judges case, 1992-3) is ~~an unusual power~~ the judiciary has appropriated for itself. Legislature is elected by the people and accountable to it. Executive is appointed by the legislature and incorporates political participation. But without a say of executive or legislature in judicial appointments, the skew of power appears in judiciary's favour.

Remarks

Then analytically discuss the touch me not attitude of Judiciary in detail

But excluding this aspect, we can see that power is well defined and separated and the scale in favour of judiciary is absent. Supreme Court has upheld a power of legislative and executive to enact and enforce many unpopular laws also for which they had competence according to the constitution. For example sec. 124 A of Indian Penal Code was upheld valid in a case vs State of Bihar.

Conflicts between institutions are bound to arise in functioning of democracy. Given scope to perception of share of power between them. Key lies in how they are handled to function in accordance with intention of Constitution.

Avoid

Properly write and increase legibility of your content.

Remarks

Precisely explain  
MCC

Q6. The Model Code of Conduct intends to provide a level playing field for all political parties, keeping the campaign fair and healthy, avoid clashes and conflicts between parties, and ensure peace and public order. Evaluate in the light of the above statement the performance of the Election Commission in implementing the model code of conduct. (10 Marks)

LEVEL PLAYING FIELD for all POLITICAL PARTIES

- ① Restrictions on amount that can be spent on campaigns and strict monitoring by Election Commission (EC)
- ② Restrictions and fixed resources deemed national parties can use on government resources (radio, television, etc)

KEEPING THE CAMPAIGN FAIR AND HEALTHY

- ① Enforcing model code of conduct.
- ② Issuing strictures if code is violated.

AVOIDING CLASHES AND CONFLICTS BETWEEN PARTIES

- ① observers from each party allowed in polling center and preparation of electoral rolls to ensure fairness.

ENSURING PUBLIC PEACE AND ORDER

- ① Control of administrative machinery (police) given to EC, so that it can ensure peace and order during conduct of elections.
- ② Preventing booth capturing and malfeasance
- ③ Conducting raids to drain cash power and liquor power in election.

Positive interventions specifically in context of Model Code of Conduct (Include examples also)

Remarks

Hence EC is performing an admirable role in ~~conducting~~ elections with respect to aspects mentioned above. and it can do better by using latest technology (drones, surveillance), latest organisational insights, social persuasion techniques, etc.

②  
Criticisms related to MCC

Remarks

Q7. Decriminalization of suicide attempt has been a long standing demand by the human right activists in India; discuss the pros and cons of any such law, if it gets passed in India? (10 Marks)

Decriminalization of suicide attempt if passed as a law in India will have the following ramifications.

#### PROS

- ① Allow those in distress and prone to suicide or who have attempted suicide to come forward and seek help, either mental/psychological help or support structures.
- ② Allow more accurate numbers/statistics about suicide cases/ attempts to enable monitoring to ensure reduction in such incidences as suicide is one of the leading causes of death for adults in India.

#### CONS

- ① <sup>may</sup> Encourage more people in distress and prone to suicide to attempt suicide as if they succeed, they achieve death, if they don't, they can try again.
- ② Without enabling measures such as mental health provision, work-life balance, counselling, suicide help-line, basic social security, this will not be expected to make a dent in the reported suicides in India.

Remarks

21/2 All these prior and cons need to be considered ~~by all stakeholders~~ in consultations to decide the need for such a law and future course of action.

More relevant pros and cons required

Remarks



- Q8. By accepting the fourteenth finance commission recommendations, the Centre has sent out an unequivocal signal of its commitment to the principle of cooperative federalism. Discuss how important is in the Indian context. (10 Marks)

India is a federal country with many of the subjects vital for development such as agricultural taxes, agricultural marketing (APMC), etc. in the domain of states. & meanwhile, most of the resources are collected by Union government officials. with financial devolution of powers to state to meet development goals/ subjects in its purview. deemed inadequate. moreover, cooperation and joint planning between similarly situated states in terms of demography, development levels, etc. to achieve economies of scale is also lacking.

It is in this context that cooperative federalism becomes vital. In this light, the Centre has accepted fourteenth finance commission (FRC's) recommendations to devolve greater share of net tax collections to the states. (from 32% to 42%). This will enable greater financial resource to states to meet their unique developmental needs. moreover, abolishing the National Development Council and instituting NITI Aayog Governing Council in cooperative framework is aimed at achieving developmental

Remarks

More recomm. required.

Benefit analysis precisely

Synergy  
 as such it signals Centre's unequivocal commitment to the principle of cooperative federalism as opposed to adversarial or conflicting federalism.

Imp of cooperative federalism in detail and more precisely

Remarks

# Transition from VAT to GST in detail

Q9. The passing of GST bill, which leads to the realization of the notion of 'one tax one country', is poised to be implemented from next financial year. This marks the culmination of a series of tax reforms and also a fundamental shift from an origin-based tax to a destination-based one. Elaborate what are the difficulties in implementing the GST. (10 Marks)

Some difficulties in implementing GST are -

- ① Revenue loss of developed industrial states as GST is destination based (where goods are bought and sold) as opposed to origin based (where they are produced).
  - ② Differences of over compensation to states suffering revenue loss to GST.
  - ③ Slabs or categories of GST rates which negate the 'one tax' part of 'one tax one country' principle.
  - ④ Search and debate over Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) - Such predictions to fund a rate that does not cause net revenue loss on implementation are speculative and cannot be predicted with accuracy causing further friction.
  - ⑤ Deadline of April 2017, and the need to put a robust and efficient GST infrastructure in place in that timeframe.
  - ⑥ Exemptions from GST - Sin goods such as alcohol or petroleum, etc. Exemption negates 'one tax one country' principle and create distortions.
- Tackling these difficulties while going forward is necessary for smooth

Remarks

~~Implementation of GST..~~

3)

~~Cover all the required dimensions to present a complete ans.~~

Remarks

Q10. What is the difference between unidimensional and multidimensional poverty? In which category India's measurement of poverty fall? Do you agree that the concept of poverty line is inadequate to reflect the real plight of the poor people in India in whatever way it is measured? What shall be done to reflect the plight of the people in the country comprehensively?

(10 Marks)

UNIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY: - ~~that which caters to one dimension such as hunger only, or health only, etc.~~ <sup>income or caloric intake</sup> - that which caters.

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY - that which caters to multiple dimensions such as hunger, landlessness, poor health, education, shelter, vulnerability, social exclusion, etc.

India's category of poverty measured by <sup>Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation</sup> ~~is unidimensional~~ as it measures consumption levels by means of ~~calorie intake required per person per day for subsistence.~~ <sup>calorie intake required per person per day for subsistence.</sup>

Concept of poverty line as described above is ~~hence inadequate as it ignores vital aspects necessary for dignified human living such as -~~

- ① Education
- ② Health
- ③ welfare
- ④ social security, insurance, indemnity from risk to vulnerability
- ⑤ shelter
- ⑥ clothing
- ⑦ Drinking water and sanitation
- ⑧ social status, pride and dignity

any system reflecting plight of people that detracts from above aspects is inadequate

Remarks

UNDP's multidimensional poverty index -

To reflect plight of people more accurately, several steps can be taken such as -

- ① Incorporating these measures (education, healthcare spending needs and provision) in poverty estimates.
- ② Incorporating costs of inadequacy of shelter, clothing and social strife as opportunity cost into calculations of poverty.
- ③ Social audit of local poverty statistics.
- ④ Transition of focus from concept of Gross National Product to Gross National Happiness as in Bhutan.

Conclusion required

Remarks

Q11. What is the role of banks in an emerging economy, like India to promote entrepreneurship through programme like start up India and stand up India? Enumerate the recent initiatives of the commercial banks of India in this direction? (10 Marks)

India has more than 60% of its population in the age group (15-59) that is working age cohort. This population needs employment to sustain. Large economic institutions, corporations etc have a limit to which they can create employment. This is where entrepreneurship comes in? unleashing creativity innovation of populace through startups that serve new or existing needs, organise unorganised markets and create employment in the process.

One of the major obstacles to programmes of the central government like Startup India, Stand up India is lack of <sup>adequate</sup> credit on reasonable and competitive terms. In this context, the role of banks in emerging economies like India to promote entrepreneurship is vital as they control the credit and finance sector.

Some recent initiatives of commercial banks in India are -

- ① Venture Capital Funds (out of mutual funds, pension funds)
- ② MUDRA scheme linkages
- ③ Microcredit leveraging information technology, such as payments bank, small banks like Bandhan, micro finance bank, etc

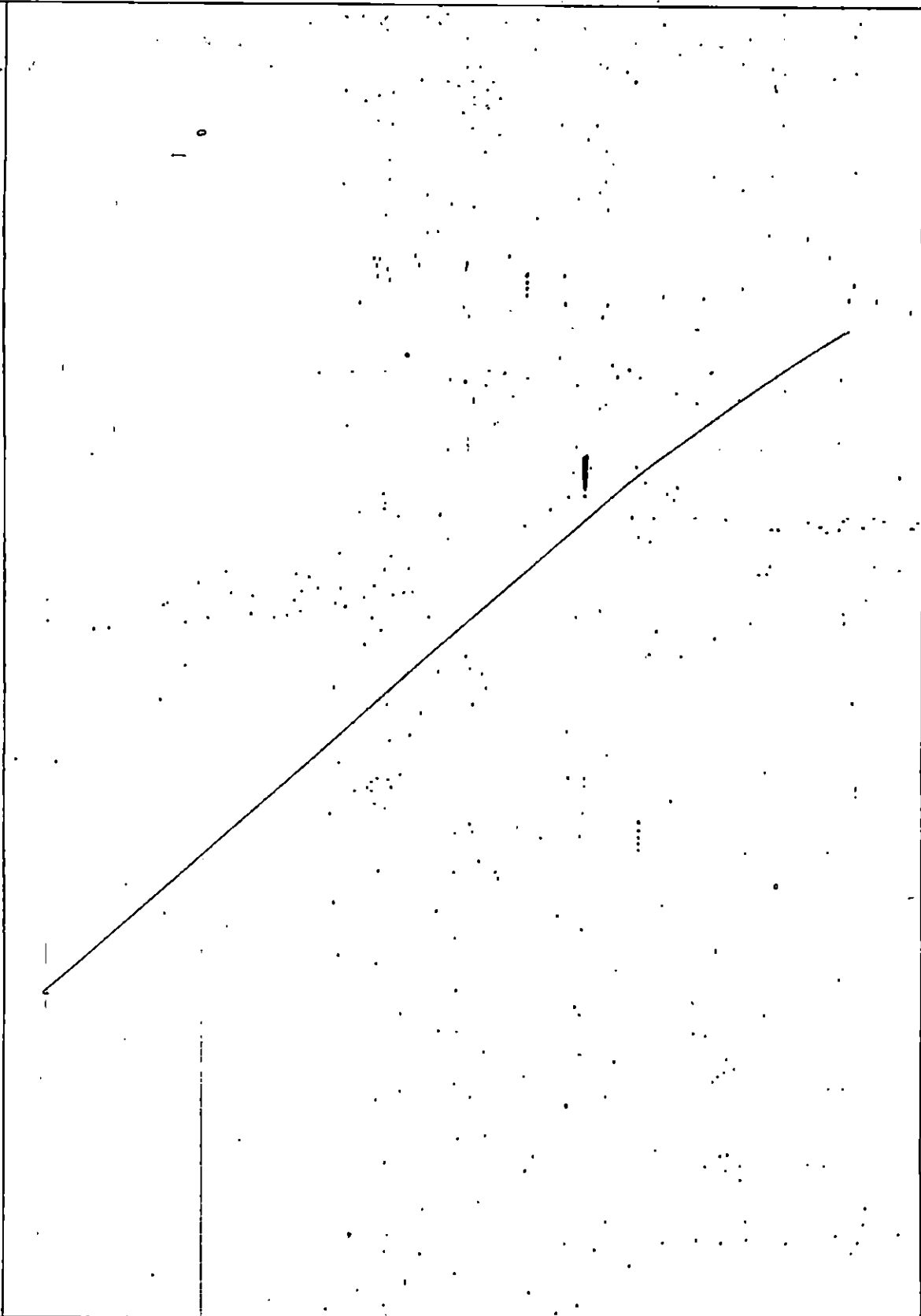
Remarks

Be precise with your discussion  
 More initiatives required

In two or three lines

Precisely about Startup India and Stand up India.

21



Remarks



Proper intro required

Q12. The Government placed a Bill to amend the Companies Act, 2013 passed less than 3 years ago, proposing nearly 100 amendments. What are the main features of the Companies Amendment Bill 2016? Why such amendments are being sought in such a small time period of three years after the last amendment? (10 Marks)

Some of the provisions of the Companies Act 2013 that are being ~~amended~~ amended ~~in~~ in Companies Amendment Bill 2016 or being added afresh are -

- ① Labour regulations - Increase in number of employees from 100 to 500 for labour regulations to apply.
- ② Computerised / randomised inspections.
- ③ Self-certification and third party audit.
- ④ Ease of exit - To close down bankrupt, insolvent firms.
- ⑤ Dispute resolution - Necessitating exhaustion of domestic judicial avenues before international arbitration and reform of dispute resolution provisions.
- ⑥ Corporate governance - <sup>concerning</sup> ~~requiring~~ composition of board of directors, reporting of financial data, etc.

Companies Act 2013, failed to address some issues such as ~~problem of exit~~ (Challenges of Indian Economy, Ch 2, Economic Survey 2015-16, Vol I) ; labour regulations etc and ignored issues such as self-certification, dispute resolution, etc. Therefore,

Ref. hints

Remarks

Clarification and correctional in nature, basically changes are for administrative ease.

3

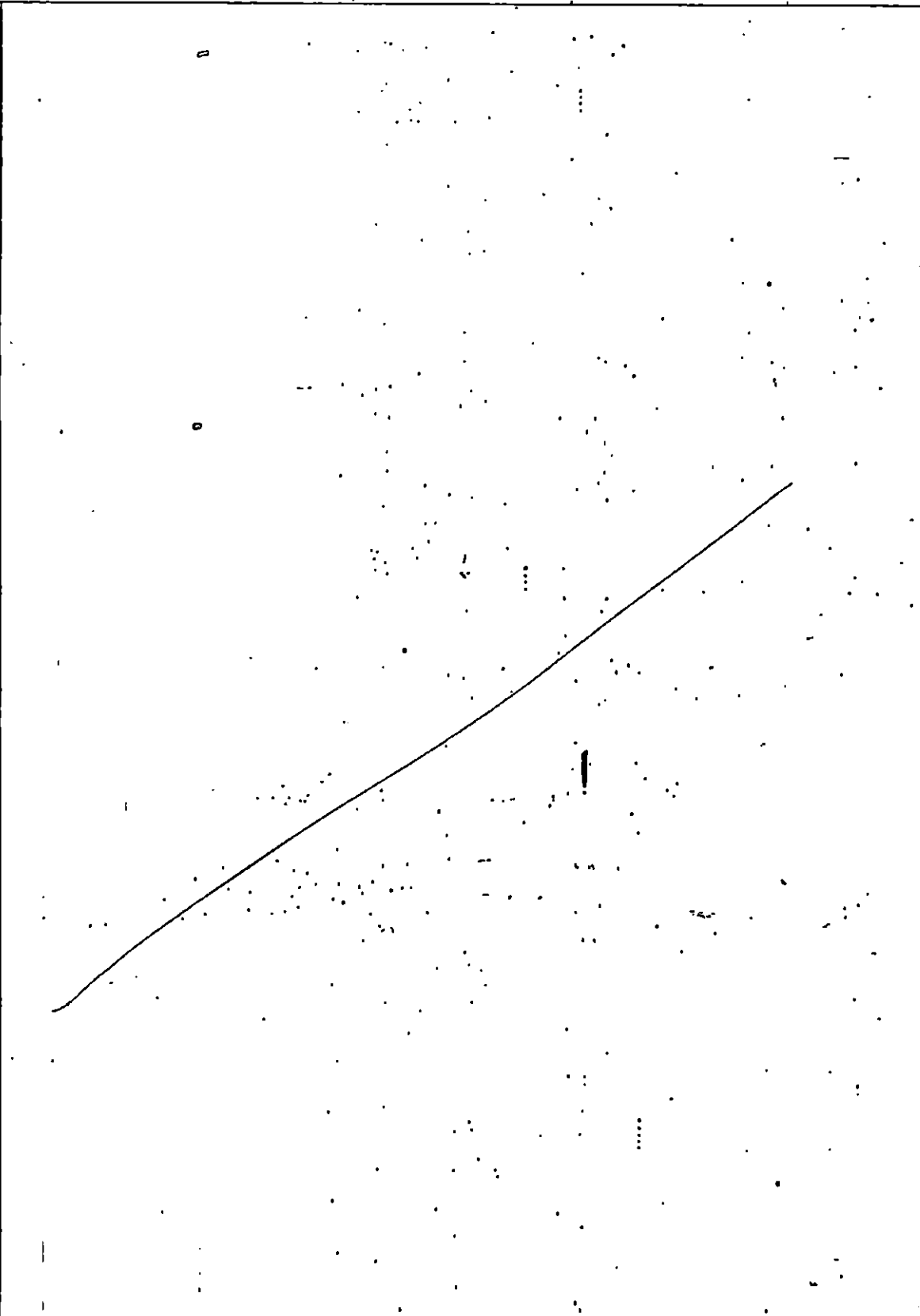
The required changes were accommodated in Companies Act 2016 via ~~over~~ 600 amendments.

Major changes from 2013 in detail.

Remarks

Q13. The Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs) Prevention of Atrocities (PoA) Act, 1989 was amended recently to include new offences and to ensure speedy justice to victims. The amendments in the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995 were modified and notified on 14th April, 2016. What are the main amendments and how these can provide better safeguard to the Schedule Castes against pervasive atrocities? (10 Marks)

*Remarks*



*Remarks*

Q14. The Supreme Court in a recent hearing on Lodha committee on BCCI said, 'No doubt BCCI has done a lot for the cricket in this country... so this effort (implementing Lodha Committee's recommendations) is not to tarnish or truncate their image, but there must be some standardization of procedure.' Elaborate and discuss the ramifications of Supreme Court's view on reforms in the BCCI pertaining to structural changes in the cricketing body. (10 Marks)

Lodha committee on BCCI reforms was constituted by the Supreme Court after allegations of spot match fixing in IPL and conflict of interest issues creating perception of corruption in IPL, where team owners <sup>were</sup> also officials in BCCI and IPL governing council. Supreme Court ruled that as BCCI claims to represent India in world cricket and due to public interest involved, these issues could not be allowed to go unexamined. Hence the Lodha Committee was constituted.

The BCCI's procedures are opaque, no one knows how team selections are done, its audited accounts are not in the public domain. In this light, Lodha committee deemed it necessary some reforms to standardize procedure, enhance transparency, improve governance while safeguarding interests of viewers public and players.

① Some recommendations include -  
 Audit by CAG appointed person/body or third party account audit of accounts of BCCI.

In a short para

Remarks

② One state one vote (to remove discrimination in favour of some boards) for example Gujarat and Maharashtra have 3 Ranji teams each.

③ Age bar on eligibility of officials, restriction on politicians, bureaucrats etc in BCCI bodies.

④ Role of players in cricket administration.

These and other Bodha committee recommendations

but become necessary to

enhance fairness in conduct and outcome of sport. It is even said

to be the model

recommendations

for other sports federations to

revamp

sports

administration

in India.

Discuss the ramifications under each recommendation (main requirement)

Remarks

Q15. What does section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code relate to? What are the main features of the section and why is it needed? In a free democracy like ours what are the desirable precautions that need to be taken care of before invoking the section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code against the citizens of the country? (10 Marks)

Sec 124 A of the Indian penal code relates to offences in relation to sedition.

① Main features of this section include - Anyone trying or inciting hatred or disaffection against lawfully elected government can be held and prosecuted for on grounds of anti-sedition activities.

② Not only violent activities or activities tending to do so, but ~~at~~ speech, writings, etc which incite disaffection are also included.

This section is needed because our democracy is underpinned by vast diversity of opinions, aspirations and centrifugal forces like separatism, etc. To counter ~~these~~ subversive activities which aim to harm unity and integrity of India, an anti-sedition law becomes vital.

However, this is also a law prone to misuse, therefore certain precautions are desirable in a free democracy like ours.

Remarks

① The supreme court, upholding the validity of Sec 124A in a case versus the state of Bihar, in 1962, circumscribed vague ~~or~~ concept of hatred and disaffection to those which tend to promote or purport to violence.

② This <sup>provision</sup> should not be used to stifle dissent, which is the lifblood of democracy; therefore it should be applied in rarest of rare cases and only according to Supreme Court guidelines.

③ Burden of proof should be on prosecution and not defendant to prove sedition.

④ This law is necessary for preserving unity and integrity of India but if applied indiscriminately for reasons can lead to backlash against it and subversion of press democracy. We should be in constant vigilance against such subversion.

Remarks

Properly discuss all major precautions required while invoking Sec. 124A.



Precisely mention the verdict first

Q16. Permanent Court of Arbitration at Hague has recently given a verdict against Chinese claims on sovereignty over South China Sea. Would this development reduce Chinese militarization over the region? (10 Marks)

Despite the Permanent Court of Arbitration <sup>verdict</sup> at Hague, ~~against~~ Chinese claims on sovereignty over South China Sea, Chinese militarization over the region will only increase. Several reasons point to this eventuality:

① South China Sea is 55% of world trade (including) crude oil passes through these waters of South China Sea (S.C.S). This gives it economic strategic value.

② Response to USA's Asia Pivot - USA is shifting majority of its forces into Asia-Pacific to counter China's rise and give it a stake in evolving growth engine of the world; China is the rising superpower cannot let USA run amok in its 'sphere of influence'.

③ China as rising superpower ~~also~~ believes in its right to expand its sphere of influence in its neighbourhood, even if opposed by international law, just as USA did in 1890's via the 'Marshall Plan'.

Remarks

Be more precise and covers all the dimensions within 200 word limit

# Analysis of Chinese outlook (Want to solve issue bilaterally)

34

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④

China's 'economic power' and 'rising military buildup' seeks to assert its claims over that of its neighbours. China claims the entire South China Sea as its territorial waters (demarcated by nine-dash line). Some of these waters are claimed by neighbours. China is using hard power to build artificial islands in parallel and speckly islands. Militarization is likely to continue to give it first mover advantage.

⑤

Historically, China was dominated by Japan militarily. So China is wary and in defensive offence, it aims to gain military superiority over Japan (which is in US's nuclear umbrella).

There are some of the reasons ~~that~~ because of which we are likely to see increasing Chinese militarization, aside from the fact that the court of arbitrations ruling in favour of Philippines is not binding.

Also discuss the required initiatives/actions from neighbouring countries to force China to follow the rule book.

Remarks

Q17. 'The much needed passage through Chabbhar Port can potentially change the course of engagement between India and Afghanistan.' Critically analyse. (10 Marks)

Chabbhar Port on the coast of Iran, 70 km from Guadar Port of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), less than 100 km from Oman coast and at the choke point of Strait of Hormuz, can potentially change the course of engagement between India and Afghanistan. Several benefits are expected from the project, some of which are -

① Connectivity between India and Afghanistan bypassing Pakistan -

Iran side railway line connecting Chabbhar port to Afghanistan border has been constructed. But that on Afghanistan side is still not in place due to lack of finance, also law and order in the southern Afghanistan.

② Wavering of India-Afghanistan relationship.

Afghanistan is believed to be India gives considerable aid to Afghanistan (more than 2.5 billion dollars over the past decade). However, India's progress on projects connecting to Chabbhar port are still far from complete. Moreover, India's active

Remarks

Precisely discuss the benefits to India and Afghanistan in detail and then discuss the existing and future challenges in Indo-Afghan relations

participation is hindered due to frequent attacks on Indian operations.

- ③ Iran's need to maintain good relations with Pakistan - Iran and Pakistan share a long border, therefore peace between Iran and Pakistan is vital for both. As such, Iran is wary of Chabahar being projected as counter to Gwadar Port, which renders India's ability to transact with Afghanistan less effective.

- ④ INSTC and Ashgabat Agreement

Implementation of these connectivity and trade corridors is slow to take off, rendering India-Afghanistan trade.

Chabahar port is expected to change the course of engagement between India and Afghanistan, however, issues of finance, implementation/ project execution, geopolitics, law and order, cause obstacles which need to be overcome to drive India-Afghanistan relations forward.

Remarks

Q18. The aggressive expansionist policies of China are based on its historical old maps, which it claims to have held once upon a time, discuss the validity of this argument in context of modern international laws and how other nations shall react to its expansionist tendencies? (10 Marks)

Remarks

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*Remarks*

Q19. While West Asia has been hotbed of international attention in recent past, India has not displayed any kind of policy stance in recent past towards the region, except securing the interest of its Diaspora. Do you agree, give reasons in support of your answer?  
(10 Marks)

*Remarks*

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Remarks



Q20. Nepal Madhesi protest has been a diplomatic disaster for India, Elaborate on the recent events which have reduced India's goodwill and soft power among the northern neighbours? (10 Marks)

*Remarks*

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*Remarks*

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Q21. Examine the recent developments in India's "Look East Policy" under the new regime?  
Also describe their impact on India's North-eastern region? (10 Marks)

Remarks

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*Remarks*

Q22. Discuss which are major pillars on which India's soft power is based on? Has India really encashed on this soft power yet, for diplomatic gains? (10 Marks)

'Soft Power' a concept given by ~~Harvard~~ economist Joseph Nye entails influence over minds of foreign populace and brand image and value of a nation.

India's soft power is based on the following major pillars-

- ① Bollywood - Movies/serials beamed live in countries such as Africa, West Asia, Europe, Americas have a huge fan following.
- ② Cricket - India is a cricketing superpower, the richest cricket board in the world and home of some of the most admired cricketers in the world.
- ③ Grant/Aid Projects - For example development: construction of Afghanistan Parliament building in 2015, Hajjark Iron ore mine, Selma Dam, Taraz - Delaram Highway in Afghanistan.
- ④ Ideology - Non-Aligned movement, etc.
- ⑤ Yoga/Spirituality - India as home of yoga and spirituality, diverse and vibrant culture.

Remarks

Elaborate Political ideology  
and fundamentals of foreign  
Policy.

Recent report by German think tank 'Brand Nation' placed India's brand value at 7th in the world (2.8 billion dollars) behind 1st placed USA (19.6 billion dollars). As indicated, we have encashed our soft power to enhance our brand value. But our soft power has not yet yielded the diplomatic gains that it can. Any soft power has to be underpinned by hard power for influence to translate into results. ~~There~~ low number of diplomatic personnel vis-a-vis other countries, lesser financial or military aid, less vociferousness and influence in international forums indicate inadequacy of sufficient hard power.

(3 1/4) The way going forward is to enhance soft power and underpin it by growing hard power (in economic, military and diplomacy) in order to convert soft power into tangible outcomes. Initiatives such as Public Diplomacy by External Affairs Ministry leveraging IT are a case in point.

Also discuss recent erosion of soft power

Remarks

Neglected areas and related challenges

Q23. While LTTE has been wiped out, India-Sri Lanka has not moved on as expected? What are the major hiccups in increasing engagement with Sri Lanka? (10 Marks)

LTTE has been wiped out in Sri Lanka. But the ~~grievances~~ ~~that~~ ~~regarding~~ power devolution, nature of federation, provincial ~~and~~ autonomy and rights of Tamils in the Sinhalese nation remain. As such due to role of state in ~~the~~ international relations (in this case Tamil politics) and non-realisation of common ~~and~~ ~~not~~ understandings of Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accords, India-Sri Lanka relations have not moved on as expected. There are major hiccups in increasing engagement with Sri Lanka -

① Perception of Indian interference -

Vociferous support by Tamil politics to Tamil claims for autonomy in Sri Lanka give rise to this perception and effect on ~~sovereignty~~.

② Disputes related to fishing - Between

Tamil fishermen in India and Sri Lanka ~~are~~ around issues of illegal fishing by Indian ~~mechanised~~ bottom trawlers.

③ Shadow of China - Economic projects by China (such as Hambantota port) by China increase its influence in Sri Lanka, obstructing Indian influence.

Remarks.

13<sup>th</sup> Amendment

Discuss points more precisely.

① ~~Inadequate implementation of 13th Amendment to Constitution in Sri Lanka, causing Tamil grievances. Demands of solidarity by Tamil Nadu political parties and their impact on Indian political developments.~~

~~These are hiccups need to be factored in India's geopolitical calculations regarding Sri Lanka; because as an vital important neighbour of India, maintenance of peace and good relations is vital for India's own economic development and rising role as a regional power.~~

Ongoing cooperation in detail

Try to cover all dimensions to present complete ans.

Remarks



Precisely mention the reforms.

Q24. Elaborate on the recent IMF quota reforms? Analyse if these have been too late and too little? (10 Marks)

Recently, IMF gave effect to quota reforms almost doubling ~~pledge capital~~ to approximately 650 billion dollars. Countries get voting power and quotas based on resources they pledge to IMF. Such allocated quotas had not been revised in a long time. Previous decade saw rise in economic strength of developing countries such as China, India, Russia, Brazil etc. A concomitant increase in IMF quotas was desirable to make this <sup>this</sup> ~~with~~ Bretton Woods institution more representative of the present world order. Hence in the recent IMF quota reforms saw rise in <sup>quotas</sup> share of developing countries. China was the biggest gainer followed by India.

These reforms have been a long time coming. International institutions and particularly financial have a lot of power over countries finances and as such they should be representative of present situations in order to prevent ~~subversion of~~ institutional ~~credibility~~. As such, quota reforms should be institutionalised and happen periodically (unlike this present one held after a long time).

Remarks

Moreover, the ~~so~~ adequacy of allocated quota is doubted. India being 1<sup>st</sup> largest economy in nominal terms and 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in PPP terms deserved more than it got. Procedures and calculations involved should be ~~made more transparent, robust and predictable~~ by subjecting them to ~~public scrutiny~~.

3 1/2  
 Ref. points

Therefore, although IMF quota reforms are welcome, they have been a long time coming and too late and too little.

Be more precise with your discussion

Remarks

Q25. Discuss the major achievements of India-ASEAN FTA? Has this FTA worked against Indian commercial interest, provide data in support of your stand? (10 Marks)

India-ASEAN FTA has had major achievements, some of which are -

- ① Expanding India's trade with ASEAN and India's participation in mega trade deal ~~CEPT~~ Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)
- ② India's activation of its 'Look-East Policy' - Trade component via India-ASEAN FTA.
- ③ Includes agreement in services along with trade

However, there have been contentions that this FTA has ~~not~~ worked against Indian commercial interest. <sup>Some</sup> Reasons provided for these contentions are -

- ① Trade skew in favour of ASEAN (To & 30 ratio according to Ministry of Commerce).
- ② Restrictions on movement of professionals (particularly software) where India's comparative advantage lies.
- ③ Invested duty structure hindering India's exports to ASEAN - Imports of intermediate goods at taxes higher than import of finished good, placing Indian exports at a cost

Remarks

disadvantage.

hence, ~~where necessary duty~~  
~~structures should be renegotiated to~~  
~~prevent inversion.~~ allow movement  
 of professional (even temporarily),  
 and general ~~encouragement for~~ India's  
 export competitiveness.

(4) This would ~~not~~ reduce harmful  
 locum in India. ASEAN FTA to  
 promote synergy and mutual benefit.

Discuss more in detail

Remarks