GS SCORE

INDIAN SOCIETY AND GOVERNANCE

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.   Max. Marks: 250

Q.	Marks	Instructions to Candidate
1.		There are 20 questions.
2.		
3.		
4.		All questions are compulsory
5.		
6.		The number of marks carried by a question is indicated
7.		against it.
8.		
9.		
10.		Answer the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 words each.
11.		Contents of the answer is more important than its length.
12.		
13.		Answers must be written within-the space provided.
14.		
15.		Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-
16.		cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		

7|Aug/2017

1. Invigilator Signature

2. Invigilator Signature

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Date   4th August, 2017

Signature

Q1. The tyranny of distance from the capital not only affects the provision of government and administrative services, but also the infrastructure. Critically analyze in context of the development deficit in NE of India. Also elaborate, how this affects even the media coverage of the regions affected by this phenomenon.   **(12.5 Marks)**

Ans- It is said that the capital region of a country is a well developed area. The infrastructure facilities are well developed as are the administrative services. For eg - Delhi and NCR (National Capital Region) is brimming with industrial and business clusters, job opportunities etc. It is even easy to access the government & redress grievances for the High Court & Supreme Court are located here.

But going farther away from the capital, opportunities & government services decrease. & and government apathy increases. This can be seen in the North East India

NE India is then geographically very far away from the Capital, New Delhi. As a result the problems of this region do not get addressed easily

eg - During Jat agitation in Haryana (for Jats claiming OBC status), groups of Jat reached the capital city of New Delhi, or stopped the water supply by damaging canals carrying water to the city, thus making their presence felt

But a similar local demand of ILP (Inner Line permit) in Manipur goes not heard in Delhi as the region is very far

Remarks

away and people couldn't ~~can~~ travel so far to Delhi to protest for their demands.

Delhi and surrounding region of NCR is well developed and government has taken incentives to develop industries and businesses in the area. But the North East, despite being rich in oil, coal, scenic beauty has logged greatly behind.

• As the region is so far away and linked only by the narrow Siliguri corridor, even physical infrastructure such as roads, rails and airports are underdeveloped. eg Till now, The entire NE is not connected by railways, let alone airways.

• Tourism, health & well run Tourism potential, ecotourism potential has not been developed.

The physical distance affects not just infrastructure and governance but also media coverage.

: The case of Arunachal Pradesh governor dismissing the state assembly in 2016 didn't get as much coverage in news as a similar occurrence in Uttarakhand.

• The conflict of Kukis & Meitis, Inner Line permit isn't aired much in the news.

• Another far off area - Andaman & Nicobar & Lakshdweep island hardly get a mention in the news.

Repetitive
(4)
Give suggestions for bridging the development in NER

Remarks

Q2. Discuss the initiatives taken by the government to improve attendance in government offices and analyze their impact? What steps can further be taken to improve the public delivery and work rate in government offices?

(12.5 Marks)

Ans- Quality of governance in India, lack of accountability & transparency in government offices, weak attendance of government offices are often cited as the flaws in Governance in India.

The government has taken a number of steps to improve attendance in government offices.

- Keeping of an attendance register and attendance list of officials which will be evaluated at regular intervals.

- Biometric clocks and visits by seniors

- Penalty for large number of unsanctioned holidays by officials

- Biometric scanners to keep track of attendance & also having the requirement to mark attendance again after lunch time.

Although such steps have certainly achieved an improvement but weak follow through & uneven implementation of steps across the region results in attendance falling down after some time.

Steps to improve public delivery of govt. offices -
- FILE TRACKING SYSTEM -

Remarks

major reforms needed
- work culture
- Training
- corruption free officials

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- Government offices can make available a website, through which the public can regularly check the status of their applications & file numbers.

- Providing more government services online as part of NeGP (National e-governance program)

(5) - Making available a Citizen's Charter in every office which lists the services available at that office and the time & fees required for completion

- Fixing accountability of officers to time bound delivery of service

- Passing of Time bound delivery of services bill in Parliament that gives legal recourse & support to citizens.

- Effective Grievance redressal machinery in the form of a help desk, a complaint centre etc where grievances of people are addressed quickly

The Government is taking a number of steps in the form of Digital India, NeGP, Citizen's Charter to help improve productivity & responsiveness of Government offices

Remarks

Q3. The VIP culture of India is notorious and tantamount to having various categories of citizen as per their VIP status. However, of-late there seems to be a general disdain among political parties to stay away from such practices. Elaborate on the steps taken by government to reduce or curb the VIP culture in India? Analyze, if these have been successful? -
(12.5 Marks)

Ans: The Constitution of India lays down equality before the law & equal rights as a Fundamental Right of citizens. Yet those with economic power (rich businessmen & industrialists) and political power (MP's, MLA's, Ministers etc) are practically considered as a separate category of citizens - VIP's - with the easier access to goods & services.

The Government, both at the Union and State levels have, however, lately taken a number of steps to do away with the VIP culture.

• Restrictions on the use of beacons on cars - Red, amber & blue beacons - the symbols of a VIP which were openly flouted till now are restricted by the government. Only the Chief Justice & Judges of Supreme & High Courts, Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, Union-Cabinet Ministers etc can now use red beacons.

- States like Punjab have gone a step ahead & stripped all MLA's except the Chief Minister of the red beacon

- The blue beacon has been reserved for ambulances

Remarks

- **Airport security checks**

MP's and MLA's earlier used to skip security checks and physical frisking at airports, didn't used to stand in queues for boarding and used to be given first class seats.

- Now however, security checks except for cabinet ministers is a must.

- **Holding up traffic**

MP's, MLA's have also been debarred from holding up traffic when they visit a town, just so that their cavalcade of cars can pass smoothly.

Effectiveness of such steps

- Beacons, not red but amber ones are routinely flouted by officials

- No redressal machinery exists to complain against continued VIP treatment at airports etc & so it continues

The intentions of government thus been good but it needs to be strengthened with more aggressive measures & a strong enforcement machinery.

given steps would bright only if common people become aware of their right

Q4. Though India has low level of labour force participation rates for women, but their participation in MGNREGA is above 50%. What are the reasons for it? What changes MGNREGA has brought to the situation of women? **(12.5 Marks)**

Ans -

Labour force participation (number of people working or looking for work) with respect to women in India is less than 25%. It is the 2nd lowest in South Asia after Pakistan.

But MGNREGA sees women participation of more than 50%. Reasons -

° The MGNREGA act has a provision of employing atleast 30% women. Such a provision guarantees high women participation to begin with.

° Women working under MGNREGA find work close to home and don't have to travel long distances such as across states. In contrast,

- Inter state migration in search of work, in view of its difficult nature is done mostly by men and thus too women workforce participation rates are low

° No exploitation of women workers. They are paid equal wages, paid well in time and this increases women participation

° MGNREGA work builds rural infrastructure, eg - helping village ponds, building schools etc which directly

Remarks

Also give reasons for low participation in general

helps women & therefore they participate in large numbers

Changes brought by MGNREGA to situation of women

- **Supplementing Family income**

MGNREGA has helped women to supplement family income as they can find wage employment close to home & are paid equally as men.

- **Financial inclusion**

Women working with MGNREGA receive salaries which they would like to keep with themselves as savings or for need in times of distress. By ~~saving~~ depositing such amounts in banks, their financial inclusion follows

- Many women with Aadhaar linked bank accounts are directly paid through bank transfers.

- **Empowerment**

By increasing financial inclusion & wage job earning, rural women have been empowered to stand up against abusive husbands, patriarchy etc

- **Increased bargaining power** to women in other jobs.

MGNREGA has thus been a boon for rural women by increased family income, financial inclusion & empowering them

Q5. India's old age population will dramatically increase over the next three-four decades. What are the problems that are going to be encountered in this process and what effective measures should be taken to tackle them?

(12.5 Marks)

Ans -

At present 40% of Indian population is below 18 years of age. However, 4 decades later, this 40% of population will be nearly nearing retirement age.

As the demographic dividend passes and population growth slows down, India will find itself with a large proportion of old population. The A number of problems would be encountered such as -

° SOCIAL SECURITY COST

Increasing old age population will result in increasing cost of pension and insurance (health & life) on the older population putting a strain on country's financial resources

—Health

Old aged population will face numerous age related health problems such as joint diseases, arthritis, knee replacements etc putting an enormous strain on our health care system.

° LONLINESS

In the age of globalisation, nuclear families prevail where the sons live away from parents. Old parents left alone. They suffer from lonliness, anxiety, depression etc

Remarks

○ <u>Productivity</u>

Productivity of the Indian population will decrease as a whole due to shortage of labour & workers and increasing dependents. The Indian economy will have to come up with innovative ways to sustain itself.

○ <u>Poverty</u>

(4½/5)

A large proportion of the old population would be poor with no means of sustenance, no pensions & insurance (as they belonged in the unorganized sector)

Measures to tackle problems

○ Ensure that all working individuals are covered by pensions & insurance to support them in old age.

○ Make pensions & insurance funds invest in equities. Since these funds will be large due to sheer number of people taking them up, they will be able to support the Indian economy.

○ Provision of state sponsored old age homes for the aged who cant support themselves or those who are lonely. Such homes must however have good infrastructure, recreational amenities etc.

 An aging population & its problems are inevitable but we can well be prepared to tackle the problems smoothly.

Remarks ✓

Q6. Idea of Universal Basic Income has gained traction in many countries across the world in recent. Can universal basic income address the problem of poverty in India? Critically examine.

(12.5 Marks)

Ans. Universal basic income (UBI) involves providing a basic income of a particular amount to the entire adult population of the country, not withstanding their economic status.

Advantages of UBI for tackling poverty.

• It will be given to every adult citizen of the country and thus will target every and there will be no exclusion errors.

• Since it will be transferred directly into bank accounts, there won't be any leakages, pilferages or mistargeting.

• It will offset against when ~~target~~ the income of the poor because everyone will receive it.

• It will give purchasing power to the poor, thus increasing demand, which will lead to expansion of industries & setting up of new industries - thus increasing employment.
  It will thus be a self fuelling process

• It can be funded out of present subsidies, schemes (such as Centrally sponsored schemes)

Remarks

UBI is only focussing upon income aspect whereas poverty is multidimensional

Disadvantages of UBI ti tackle poverty.

- ~~Enormous~~ Enormous economic & financial burden on the nation because of which it may not be possible to give it to everyone.

- If it is not given to everyone but only the poor, it again might suffer from leakages & the well off cornering it & benefits not reaching the poor.

- It won't automatically increase economic activity.

- The poor may squander it on non-necessary goods.

- It may drive up inflation to very high levels thus again reducing purchasing power of the poor

- Present subsidies (such as PDS) ensure foodgrain & other such goods reach the poor, thus helping the farmers as well. This won't happen under UBI & thus farmers may suffer

- Present schemes (eg Maternity benefit scheme, Beti bachao beti padhao, Universal immunization, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) cater to education, health & social development. This will stop under UBI & thus *in absence of* government funding wealth, education may suffer

UBI is a good intentioned but impractical move that will

Q7. Why some of the economically advanced states like Panjab, Haryana have low sex ratio as compared to poor states like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand? What are the ill effects of adverse sex ratio on society? What lessons can be learnt from recent turnaround in sex ratio in Haryana? (12.5 Marks)

Ans- Sex ratio is the number of females per 1000 males. It is seen that sex ratio across the country varies widely with North Western states of Punjab, Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir showing sex ratio of less than 900 while poorer Eastern states like Bihar and Jharkhand faring much better.

Reasons for low sex ratio in economically prosperous Punjab and Haryana.

• These states already had a patriarchal social structure where the son is given prominence. Rituals are performed by son & property goes to son.

- Also due to land holdings being a matter of social prestige, property owner, that is the son, gets importance.

- Punjab, Haryana lie at the border, which in Medieval times used to be run over by invading countries. Thus sons were meant to fight while women were kept in Purdah so that they weren't exploited.

• Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, on the other hand, have a big tribal population. Tribal societies are largely egalitarian with equal importance given to girls & boys

• The already present preference for sons in prosperous states gets accommodated by the ability to get sex-ratio tests being

Remarks

becoming more affordable. In other words, prosperous states can afford to pay more for illegal sex determination tests and the following sex selective abortions.

- Prosperity doesn't bring awareness of bad effects of low sex ratio, but education does - as seen in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, where literacy & sex ratio both are high. Punjab, Haryana are prosperous but not performing excellently in awareness

Ill effects of low sex ratio:-

- More men as compared to women. Not every man can thus find a bride. In such situations, human trafficking prevails. Girls are bought from poor, backward tribal areas of Jharkhand, Nepal & North East to make brides.
- Increasing incidents of assaults & sexual offences against women
- Status of females and girls remains low.
- Population pyramid becomes unstable → Population growth may slow down.
- Social evils like polyandry (meaning men share a wife)

Lessons to be learnt from Haryana

- Awareness through social media campaign eg selfie with daughter can help increase sex ratio & change perceptions.
- Government interventions like Beti bachao, beti padhao can help

It has thus been seen that spread of education, awareness along with government interventions in centuries can protect girls

Remarks

Give suggestion for further empowerment

Q8. What has been the impact of globalization on younger generation in India? How this impact on younger generation is affecting the cultural elements of Indian society?

(12.5 Marks)

Ans- Globalization is the economic integration of the world. Due to advancements in Information & communication technology nation barriers have decreased & cultures have mingled. Also, increasing trade has resulted from easing of trade rules with help of WTO.

Impact of globalization on the youth

It has been seen that the youth have acquired & adopted Western tastes and manners & spread of Western culture has taken place. eg-

* Fast food
Fast food culture best represented by McDonalds, KFC etc has replaced local tastes & cuisines

* Dress
Native dresses like dhoti, saree, salwar, kameez & chadra have been replaced by jeans, t-shirts and pant suits ......

* Festivals
While Indian festivals are celebrated as well eg Diwali, Holi, Baisakhi, Western festivals too have found place in our culture, eg- Christmas, Valentine's day

* Bad habits
Some bad habits such as smoking, drinking were already prevalent, they have become more widespread on

Remarks

- Families have become more nuclear where kids live in big cities leaving elderly parents alone - this too is a result of globalization.

- live in relationships, courtship before marriage too has become more common as a result of globalization.

- °° Social media such as Facebook and Whatsapp have affected traditional relationships.

Effects on culture of Indian society

- It seems as if our traditional culture is slowly being replaced with Western culture and may even get wiped out one day. eg Ayurveda being forgotten.

- But in some
g/cultures, it has also made us more aware of our own culture. eg Yoga, Indian spices, meditation have become famous as a result of globalization.

- In this sense, Indian curry, Indian handlooms, embroidery etc work and other components of Indian culture are becoming global because of globalization

Thus while we ourselves are forgetting our culture because of globalization, the same process has helped it made global. Thus we shouldn't shun everything western but must adapt it while retaining our culture

Remarks

Q9. 'Hidden urbanization' has been one of the characteristics of urbanization in India. While elaborating the phenomenon, also examine the reasons behind its existence and how it impacts the urban planning process? (12.5 Marks)

Ans.

Remarks

Remarks

Q10. Though government has taken several steps to improve the health care in India, but the sector severely faces the crunch of public funding and lacks a comprehensive approach that would include preventive and promotive health care. In this scenario, critically analyse National Health Policy. 2017 as a solution to improve Health care system in India. (12.5 Marks)

Ans - Government spending in Health care stand is at an insufficient 2.5% of the GDP. The result is that India faces a an number of health problems such as

• Widespread anaemia and malnutrition among women and children which is as high as 45%

• High infant mortality ratio of 42 deaths per 1000 births

• Insufficient PHC's (Primary Health Centres) in rural areas which lack in infrastructure (such as beds, diagnostics, labs) and run chronic teerism of doctors

• Regular out break of diseases such as Dengue etc

Keeping this in view government released the National Health policy with objectives such as -

• Raising health care spending to 5% of GDP

• Emphasis on primary care through Primary Health Centres in rural circus

• Actions of PHC's as Health & Wellness Centres

• Free diagnostics and medicines at government hospitals etc

Remarks

will
in part

Positives of National Health Policy

° Emphasis on primary care at the village level is well targetted and just what is needed.

° It is rightly recognized that health care spending needs a boost

° Focus on non-communicable diseases through Health and Wellness Centres is also a good step.

Drawbacks

° Health care access is not made a Fundamental Right. Citizens, thus when denied healthcare or free diagnostics or timely help can't demand it as a right.

° Not steps taken for prevention of non communicable diseases such as Heart disease.

° Doctor absenteeism in rural areas is not addressed

° Government proposal to collaborate with private to provide healthcare delivery will be expensive for poor patients

° No emphasis on improving quality of doctors, decreasing antibiotic use, increasing blood banks etc

National Health Policy is a step in the right direction. If combined with good implementation, stringent standards & accountability of government, it can make India a healthy nation

Remarks

Conclusion

Q11. 'Mass molestation' incident in Bengaluru has brought back the focus once again on women's safety as well as public consciousness especially in urban areas. What are the various reasons which failed the women safety? Discuss role of various stakeholders in creating an environment for women safety, her dignity and rights.   (12.5 Marks)

Ans - The New Year's eve in Bengaluru, which saw big crowds gathering at popular venues in the city to welcome the New Year also saw cases of mass molestation of women in the public. It was a shameful incident with women even afraid to come forward to register complaints.

Reasons for failed women's safety -

• Patriarchal mindset

The social mindset that prioritizes men & their rights over women is one of the reasons for assaults on women.

• Law & order

- Even rape accused roam free with cases taking years to decide. The police have failed to check cases of assault on women. This emboldens more men to recklessly insult women & their dignity.

- Despite the presence of policemen at the venue, the assault took place shows the failure of police to check crime against women.

- Police are also rude towards women who come to

Remarks --

register their complaints. They even harass such women. Hence fewer no. of victims come forward.

○ Technology

Use of technology, such as drones can greatly help curb such incidents & catch the accused but it is rarely done.

• Social attitude

Social attitudes such as women shouldn't go out alone at night, they shouldn't dress up in jeans or skirts in turn ~~their what~~ harass the victims & don't let them speak up.

- Society that instead of helping, makes it look as if it is the women's fault

Role of various stakeholders

• Police: have the foremost duty in creating a safe atmosphere for women by regular patrols, using drones, responding quickly to complaints & being kind to women victims & quick in investigation

○ Judiciary has a role in quickly disposal of cases with a few exemplary punishments to deter further assaults

○ Society has a role in protecting its women through voluntary patrolling groups, helping victims & not blaming them

• Civil groups & NGO's need to educate people > change

Remarks their mindsets

family
Government
legislative
Executive

9.4

Q12. Youth suicide rate in India is among the highest in the world which can be heavy cost to India's demographic dividend. Discuss its various reasons. Suggest solutions to overcome this problem.

(12.5 Marks)

Ans- Youth suicide is a serious problem. When the future of a country feel so hopeless that they end their lives, the society as a whole needs to take notice & take steps to change it.

Reasons to youth suicide

Stress

- **Stress** due to studies is one of the biggest reason. Parents put undue pressure on their children to perform well, keep comparing their marks with those of other students.

- Indian society as a whole ~~doesn't~~ shuns any child who is a moderate performs in course, who fails. Such children as stigmatized by their peers & in society & end up killing themselves.

eg Many children commit suicide after the declaration of 10th & 12 board results.

eg - Due to stress & pressure to perform many students preparing for Engineering entrance tests at Kota take out their lives.

° Ragging -

Ragging in colleges, the in especially in medical colleges

Remarks ✓   ✓   ✓   ✓   ✓

can be so traumatizing and humiliating that college students end their lives.

- **AGRICULTURAL STRESS**

Due to unpaid & pending debts against banks and money lenders, failure of crops due to droughts, floods so pest attacks, many young farmers in Punjab took their lives.

- **Drugs**

Drug addicts need regular supply of drugs for which they need money. When they don't get money from their families or can't get drugs, they often end their lives.

- Westernization & **social media**

Now incidences of suicides have been seen where 15 yr olds keep themselves when they were denied smartphones as often they were brainwashed through apps such as ~~Blue Whale~~ & convinced to kill themselves

Solutions

- Counsellors should be available in schools and colleges to help children dealing with stress
- Depression shouldn't be a stigma & it should be easy to talk about to help children dealing with it.
- Parents should be made aware to not put undue stress on children
- Resolve rural stress through cheap co-operative lending, insurance etc

Remarks • Drug rehabilitation centres

Q13. The way LBGT movements have emerged all over the western world and their broader acceptance in society, especially with the election of first homosexual head of a state in a catholic country, Ireland, leaves a lot to be desired in case of India. Do you think that India needs special laws and not only to protect the dignity of such communities, but also to provide them representation? Analyze, if such provision would also require constitutional amendments?

(12.5 Marks)

Ans- LGBT movements are emerging across the world. Different countries are acknowledging them in different ways. Such as

- California and germany allowed same sex marriage.
- LGBT, who now victimized through archaic laws are now given equal rights.

- India too took a major step when the supreme court recognized transgenders as the third gender and recognized their rights to start families.

- But the same supreme court brought back Section 377 of the IPC which practically criminalizes homosexuals.

Steps India needs to take-

- To provide LGBT community with the same set of rights, India needs to get rid of archaic provisions such as Sec 377 of the IPC (introduced by the British although they too have done away with such laws in UK)

- To further ensure their rights, specific laws need to be provided.

Remarks

°g Rights of Transgenders persons bill is awaiting approval of the Parliament. But this too needs to drop contentions provisions such as the ambiguous definition of Transgender (as half man, half woman or neither man & neither woman)

• LGBT community also deserves a certain percentage of reservation in education, jobs & legislatures as they too like Dalits have been historically oppressed.

• Special schemes such as provision of free healthcare etc needs to be made for them with specialized funds.

(5) Such a process will need a constitutional amendment as to

°. Constitution provides reservation only on social criteria & that needs to be amended.

• A specialized Commission can be formed for them.

A clean society must treat all its citizen equally & no section of citizens, no matter how small must be discriminated against based on their personal choices. Instead LGBT should be suitably empowered too they can rise in social status too

Q14. India seems to be following precedents in other countries like New Zealand where a flowing river has been granted a legal status. Do you think recognizing rivers as living entities will bring change to their health and condition? Discuss. **(12.5 Marks)**

Ans-: New Zealand had declared the River Whanganui as a living person as it was sacred to the Maoris who had been fighting for its protection for decades.

Following this, court in India too declared the Ganga and Yamuna as "living persons" and recognizing all the rights of any other person would enjoy. Director of the Clean Ganga mission and the Chief secretary of the Uttara Khand government have been declared its guardians.

Benefits of declaring rivers as living persons:

○ By declaring them as persons, representatives on the behalf of these rivers would be able to fight for their Right to Life and Dignity and right to live in a pollution free environment which will help reduce the pollution in these rivers.

○ In will spread awareness among the people about the issue and their greater efforts of cleaning them.

○ It will help traditional communities fight on the behalf against industrialists & polluters who polluted the river

Drawbacks

- Both Ganga and Yamuna are considered Goddesses in Hindu mythology. If these rivers got so polluted despite them being considered a Gods, declaring them as living persons won't bring much a difference.

- In New Zealand, Maori people were made its guardians. Here people are given no protection rights over rivers.

- Declaring Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand as guardian will only create confusion regarding his jurisdiction over the Ganga in other states.

Instead of declaring Ganga & Yamuna as living people, steps need to be taken to stop industries from discharging effluents & from cities & villages of discharging human waste & sewage. Make people aware, change stiff penalties, make sewage Treatment plants available and make zero liquid discharge compulsory for industries.

India need effective implementation of existing policies. New legislation may not bring over-all change

Q15. Formal qualification and marketable skills is a major challenge among youth of minority communities. In this reference discuss the schemes initiated by government to provide adequate skills and education to enhance livelihood opportunities. **(12.5 Marks)**

Ans.

The government has initiated a number of schemes targetting only the minority communities.

° Nai Roshni

For leadership development of minority women, by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with government services, banks etc

° Padho Pardesh

It provides interest subsidies on education loans to overseas studies for minority students

° Seekho aur Kamao

For upgrading skills of minority youth in both modern & traditional skills

° MANAS (Maulana Azad National academy of skills)

It provides skills to minorities along with concessional credit to start own business

° Hamari Dharohar

To preserve rich cultural heritage of minorities

Remarks

• Nai Manzil

It provides education & give skill training for youth of minority communities. Also getting them class 10 & 12 certificates through distance education.

Thus the government is taking a number of steps to take care of education, skills & self employment & wage of minorities to make them equal partners in development.

Critical assessment of existing policies

suggestion for increasing opportunities of livelihood

Q16. What do you understand by social empowerment? What are the factors which inhibit social empowerment in India and how it affects Indian development process? What effective steps must be taken to overcome these problems? (12.5 Marks)

Ans. Social empowerment is the rise in social status of a backward or disadvantaged group or community. It also means an equal access to social resources & such as respect and dignity as other communities & persons.

Factors inhibiting social empowerment.

• Caste system

Presence of caste system in India greatly inhibits social empowerment of Dalits, Shudras & other low caste because of hierarchy of caste & the notion of pollution.

• Low status of women

Women suffer from a low status because of a patriarchal society that favours its men and considers the girls as burden who should be killed at birth

• Low status of Dalits & Shudras also result from convergence of social economic factors, that is, not only are they low in social hierarchy but they are also poor & uneducated.

Steps to over come these problems

Education –

Education and awareness with a constant attack on caste system is the best & the only fool proof method to raise status of both women & Shudras / Dalits.

Economic empowerment

Be it Dalits or Shudras, economic upliftment often results in social empowerment too.

eg - A dalit rich businessman will be looked upon with respect by even Brahmins.

Skills & jobs

Economic empowerment can in turn be provided by providing skills & jobs security.

Eminent persons such as celebrities, youth icons must speak up against discrimination

Social discrimination can stop in our lifetime. If only we educate our Women & Dalits as well as our society & economically empower the discriminated classes.

Q17. Cinema is a medium of expression and can be a useful tool of social awareness and its true depiction; however, at present the working of CBFC is impinging on right of freedom of speech, expression and thought of filmmakers, despite the fact that it is a mere certification board, not censor board. Discuss and examine what reforms are required in CBFC to remain relevant in a dynamic and evolving society?　　　　-(12.5 Marks)

Ans. 1 The CBFC (Central Board of Film Certification) is supposed to certify films (into U, U/A & A & 2) before their set release. But it often makes asks so cuts in films to before it is willing to certify them. eg Vishwaroopam & Aarakshan & lastly Lipstick Under My Burkha had to be cut.

Reforms required

° Prioritization of CBFC clearly laying down duties, time frame required to certify a film etc.

° laying down procedures for appointment and selection of its members.

° Making its working more transparent and by informing unaware of its various rights & laying down reasons for any objections it has to the films.

° Making more certification groups available. eg USA itself groupings available. eg A movie inappropriate to children under 14 can be certified //A-14

• It shouldn't be allowed to mandate cuts. If Indians above 18 yrs are thought of as responsible enough to vote, they can be considered responsible enough to watch what they like.

• Film makers, voluntarily should refrain from expletives, communal inferences, etc.

Mention of Shyam Benegal Committee

View of Shabana Azmi

Q18. Government is expanding the mandatory usage of Aadhar in availing various schemes and providing various services, despite, the concerns regarding data security and its universal availability. Discuss benefits and challenges associated with using Aadhar as a platform for public schemes and services. What government should do to subside the fear of people regarding privacy issue?   (12.5 Marks)

Ans - Aadhar was introduced to give an identity to Indian residents. However it is being made mandatory for availing various goods & services eg Accessing grains under PDS, filing Income tax returns, getting mobile connection etc.

Benefits:-

* One Aadhar number can be used anywhere & everywhere by USP & UK have a better security number.

* It will be easy for law enforcement agencies to check the background of any person for criminal activities.

* Better targetting of goods & services eg Only those who will file income tax return & pay tax can be of above + health checked . PDS subsidy

* With linked account, direct benefit transfer in PDS subsidy, fertilizer subsidy etc means to beneficiary.

Disadvantages

- As a liberal democracy, making Aadhar necessary especially for entitlements such as food grains is wrong.

- Many elderly people, labourers, housewives have very faint or no & clear finger prints left because of which they cant enrol for Aadhar nor can access government services

- Millions of blind people with damaged retina & iris cant get Aadhar

- <u>Privacy concerns</u> - Government departments have accidently made Aadhar data public on their sites- making every Aadhar ~~holder~~ vulnerable.

- At <u>IIT Kharagpur</u> graduate recently hacked into Aadhar data & developed an app. Qarth where it was wrongly accessed. Thus it is easy to hack

Steps government should take

- Not make Aadhar data public. Stringent penalties for anyone who does

- Invite people to point out flaws in the Aadhar system so they can be rectified.

- Not share data with police.

fear of common people need to be removed

Q19. Mental health care is a critical health concern, especially in India, where social stigma is attached to it. In this reference, discuss the provisions and importance of New Mental Health care bill. Also discuss challenges mental health care system in country.

(12.5 Marks)

Ans-

Provisions of Mental health care bill -

- It provides access to mental health care a right
- Provides for treatment in government hospitals to all who need it.

- Advanced directive - "Under this" a person can list out whom he nominates to take decisions in his place & can list out how he wants to be treated before hand.

- Use of electro convul sive therapy only with muscle relaxants.

- Steps to tackle stigma of mental diseases & spread awareness.

- Provision of a regulatory body in each state that oversees hospitals & their provisions.

Challenges of mental health care

- Stigma attached in society with mental health diseases eg Depression, schizophrenia etc

Remarks

- People are unaware of the various mental diseases, eg - Thousands of people suffer from depression but are unaware of it.

- Even if they are aware, they don't seek treatment for fear of social stigma. Or, they don't know about treatment

- People can't afford treatment in private hospitals.

- Few government hospitals have provision of psychiatrists, or dedicated wards for mental diseases.

- Thus low ratio of psychiatrists, psychologists & low spending on mental healthcare (less than 1% of all healthcare spending) are problem areas.

Remarks

Q20. NITI Aayog along with MHRD launched the School Education Quality Index for better monitoring and raising the education quality by providing insight on various parameters. In this reference discuss the major features of the School Education Quality Index. Also suggest steps needed to improve the learning outcomes in schools.　　　(12.5 Marks)

Ans.

Features : of Index.

Steps to improve learning out-comes.

• Provide basic infrastructure such as black boards, tubes & computers so that teaching can be interactive. This can be better understood
     refus
• Film explained on the broad can be better understood than orally

• Accountability of teachers & principals -
  Their salary increase & career progression should be

linked to the performance of their classes & schools so they teach with more enthusiasm & vigour.

- Ensure regular attendance by teachers as in many government schools teachers go on long leaves as they cant be fired easily.

- Hire permanent teachers & not ad-hoc ones as the ad hoc ones know they can be removed anytime as they dont teach well

- Provide schools with standardized animation slides so that can explain terms & concepts easily. eg- Animation on the working of the digestive system will help children better remember it.

- For this small schools are needed

② see model answers