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SRUSHTI DESHMUKH

Rank - 5

GS Paper I Marks - 120

GS Mains Q&A
Social issues in News



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GS MAINS Q&A 2018

SOCIAL ISSUES IN NEWS

Time Allowed: 3 Hr.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate

- ▶ There are 20 Questions.
- ▶ The paper contain two sections:
 - Section A: Questions 1-10 are of 10 Marks Each
 - Section B: Questions 11-20 are of 15 Mark Each
- ▶ All questions are compulsory.
- ▶ The number of marks carried by a question is indicated against it.
- ▶ Answer the questions in **SECTION A WITHIN 150** words each and **SECTION B WITHIN 250** words each. Contents of the answer is more important than its length.
- ▶ Answers must be written within the space provided.
- ▶ Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Q	Answer	Q	Answer
1		11	
2		12	
3		13	
4		14	
5		15	
6		16	
7		17	
8		18	
9		19	
10		20	

Date:

Candidate's Signature



Examiner's Signature

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REMARKS

Remarks

Section A

Q1. Regional aspirations and demands from different parts of India strengthen the principle of unity with diversity. Examine. (10 Marks)

The principle of unity with diversity has been the hallmark of Indian Union since its inception, while the demands from regional entities to representing the rich culture & diversity showcase the variety and strengthen us.

- o) Demand for separate Telangana state - was able to amplify the region's uniqueness and pride of residents
- o) Use of Karnataka's flag and West Bengal's State Emblem or New State Name - they help the state in asserting cultural identity and retain heritage for coming generations
- o) Regional aspirations for preserving language, folk art. Eg by Tamil Nadu, Recent International Telugu Conference, 2017, enhance the diverse elements.
- o) Festivals organised by Sikkim, Nagaland's etc reinforce the same.

Remarks

•) Demand from North Eastern State for special package & attention is also justified and in turn will help in building unity.

But such regional demands that are unconcerned about the national integrity can be detrimental for unity as well.

•) Demand and Armed uprising/insurgency in North East areas eg. Nagaland, Gorkha areas of West Bengal.

•) Demand for secession that can harm overall peace eg. those in POK receiving support from external state actors.

•) Regional turmoil in naxal areas of CG, Jharkhand, MP etc which reject state authority and harm dept can be internal security threat.

Regional demands which ^{are} placed ~~and~~ within the larger national identity [^] must be accommodated, while tackling with other negative forces which can attack the unity of our country.

Remarks

Q2. Indian agriculture cannot survive without women, yet they are invisible in the current conversation on the agrarian crisis. In this context, examine the role of women as farmer in India. (10 Marks)

Though Women contribute only 27% of the workforce formally / officially, in agriculture they equally share the burden of work with men.

(*) Women are involved in farming as indirect workers eg. doing jobs of seed separation, seeding, weeding, post harvest processing etc

(*) They take up labour intensive works due to inability to work with farm equipments

(*) Women arrange water supply mostly in Subsistence farming practices

(*) Due to male migration to urban areas for employment, feminisation of agriculture has been observed.

Remarks

* Women extensively contribute in animal husbandary, taking care of draught animals etc

But role of women as farmer has not gone far -

* Lack of land ownership / titles - due to which meaningful decisions are not taken by them

* They cannot avail loans directly due to which there 'say' in agrarian matters ideas and little paid heed to

* Patriarchal set up prevents them from engaging in market linkages, or technology adoption:

Women farmers need to be more meaningfully engaged in agriculture by education, land inheritance, SHG groups etc, Their decisions & contribution can help tackle agrarian issues in a more robust manner.

Remarks

Q3. Understanding of population dynamics for policy makers is vital for population planning, settlement, and sustainability. Comment. (10 Marks)

The demographic understanding of population in form of dynamics and variables in gender, income, migration rates, sex ratio, fertility rates, resource ownership, etc can be crucial factors in policy planning perspectives.

Specially in case of India where, the differences in population dynamics are immense, a nuanced approach alone can solve many development issues. for Example :

1) Total Fertility Rates in Southern states are moving near replacement levels whereas the coming demographic dividend would come from MP, Rajasthan, UP, Bihar etc. This provides insights about where to focus in family planning prog, education & healthcare.

Remarks

- o) The migration rates within country are rising owing to education, employment opportunities which can be captured in rising informalisation, casual workers etc causing regional imbalance, cultural differences eg in Maharashtra, KT, Tamil Nadu, this study can help make customised policies to handle such issues of settlement.
- o) Recent data show huge variations in education parameters eg drop ^{out} rate at ~~national~~ ^{secondary} level is 17% at National level, while in rural areas it rises to 19%, it may go as high as 70% in tribal belts. (AISHE) This demographic info can be of huge help.
- o) The resource distribution & overpopulation in some areas can impact sustainability as well eg cities are reeling under water crisis eg, Bangalore, these issues can be robustly tackled using an Evidence Based policy making by using population dynamics.

Remarks

Q4. India is multiracial, multicultural and multilingual society, however, attacks on African nationals and north-east students suggests persisting prejudice and hegemony of majority. Elaborate. (10 Marks)

The Indian landscape is a reflection of cultural and racial diversities which seem to blend in fabric of national identity, but these views are being challenged by the recent incidents of violence and maltreatment of African and North East students.

This trend underlies a deeper malaise of prejudice ^{for} ~~against~~ dominant notions of physical features. Due to feeling of hegemony and cultural superiority expressed by the majority, the unique and diverse members of our fraternity have to suffer.

Remarks

- o) They are often humiliated by calling names and being non-cooperative
- o) The plight of North East students is worse who are not recognised as integral part of our country due to racial features and often maltreated.

Such incidents must be curbed with persistent engagement, education, exchange prog & cultural give & take to overcome ^{the} wedge of ~~the~~ differences.

Remarks

- Q5. Child-rearing is seen as a shared responsibility, thus increasing maternity leave begs the question as to when India would be ready to accept a man's role in child-rearing. In this context, discuss the challenges and importance of paternal leave to ensure gender equality. (10 Marks)

The recent increase in Maternity leave has elicited mixed responses, being encouraged and applauded for easing / facilitating female workers while ^{also} raising question of gender bias by putting entire child care responsibility on women.

• Countries like Netherlands, Finland, provide paternal leaves and encourage the people to be 'good fathers' while taking care of newborns.

• But several key challenges are faced for such leaves :-

→ Fear of Economic Impact - due to higher male workforce participation, giving them leave can hamper production & impact economy.

→ Social attitudes - that fathers are expected to earn & it's mother's duty to rear kids.

Remarks

→ lack of Govt support, Eg = Even in maternity provisions or leave all responsibility is pinned on formal firms

Importance of Paternal leave -

- It can reduce burden on mothers who already experience physical stress
- It entails sharing responsibility which promotes gender equality
- Independent woman's identity is recognized as traditional sexual division of labour is challenged.

Remarks

Q6. The Economic Survey 2016-17 suggest that India is on move. In this context, analyze the trend and pattern of inter-regional migration in India. (10 Marks)

The Overall Economic Growth, Globalisation, Increasing spread of Education and Better connectivity & Communication has fuelled inter regional migration in India.

Important trends and patterns are

-) Developed states like Maharashtra, Karnataka receive highest number of migrants from ~~the~~ North India, Bihar, UP, MP, Andhra P. etc
-) The regions around National Capital - NCR also attract huge labour force due to employment opportunities.
-) Labourers from Bihar, Jharkhand migrate to Punjab, Haryana etc for agricultural works.
-) Students pursuing higher education ~~find~~ - migration to states like Tamil Nadu, MH,
-) The IT Hubs of Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune are expanding as clusters attracting skilled youths.

Remarks

- 1) The tribal belts of Central India and other poverty stricken pockets find that people are migrating to newer areas for opportunities.
- 2) Many people from North East also are coming to Mainland India to capture possibilities.

Despite this, due to domicile benefits, Non Portability of Social benefits, differential entitlements etc, a greater integration is being restrained which can be overcome by levelling dept. levels in all regions.

Remarks

Q7. "In India, the workplace gender gap is reinforced by extremely low participation of women in the economy and low wages for those who work." Is this statement true in Indian context? Analyze it on the basis of the recent Global Gender Gap Report.
(10 Marks)

The Recent Global Gender Gap Report 2017 ranked India a dismal 108/144 falling from its erstwhile position, it reflects the poor state of women due to lower participation ~~an~~ in economy and politics, as well as lower health and survival score

(*) Women's workforce participation is 27%. but their share of ^{daily} unpaid work is 65%.

(*) Women are paid less and often only 60% of what male gets

This workplace gender gap gets reinforced due to :

o) Poor participation of women in all sectors.

They tend to cluster in teaching, front desk, nursing jobs. → "Pink Collarisation"

o) Even those who work, due to low wages, they either drop out at times of marriage/maternity.

Remarks

o) India has substantial numbers of educated, trained and unemployed women due to inadequate benefits, low incentives, unsafe work culture and patriarchal norms causing double burden of work.

This urgently needs to be bridged, to add to productivity of economy & build a better India.

Remarks

Q8. Neither the Constitution, nor any central or state law places any restraint on interfaith marriages. However, these marriages (even without conversion) are also not tolerated in the society and are often met with not only parental harassment, but even communal violence. Do you think freedom to marry needs to be explicitly defined as a fundamental right? Critically analyze in the light of the recent events. (10 Marks)

Though Right to Marry is enshrined in Human Rights Convention of UN, the cases of Interfaith marriages in India even under Special Marriage Act 1954 allowing one to retain religion are violently handled by parents and society at large who see this as an attack on religion itself.

o) Recent case of Hadiya, marrying Muslim Youth sparked outrage and she was confined by her parents

o) Often such cases meet tragic ends like Honour Killing in India or Communal Violence

o) Godrokh Gupta case, where Parsi woman was restrained from performing rituals on account of opposition by own community.

Right to marry (being an adult) to a person of own choice must now be explicitly stated,

Remarks

at least as an extension of Article 21 - the Right to life and dignity; by the SC.

This can help breakdown the barriers of ~~de~~ religions and provide support to couples by a matter of 'right'.

But merely declaring this cannot help make a change, society itself needs to evolve to accept marriage as a union of two souls rather as a communal / caste / region issue. Vigilantes and harassers must be punished to set a precedent in such cases.

Remarks

Q9. "In the West, development came before longevity, but in India aging has come before development." Elaborate the statement with respect to elderly in India. (10 Marks)

The elderly constitute nearly 9% of Indian population are set to rise with better life expectancy, health facilities and care ~~is~~ available today.

In the West, the development pre dated longevity which facilitated fruitful retirement years, social security, care and greater benefits/arrangements by state & its enhanced capacity to provide healthcare & other aid to elderly.

But in India, due to inequality of development across regions and overall growth levels which boosted life expectancy, the elderly find themselves with inadequate state supports posing challenges of aging with dignity.

- * Insurance and Pension Coverage is lower
- * Changing family structure aggravating the problems
- * Community Services like Old Age Homes, Day Care and health facilities for Palliative care etc inadequate.

Remarks

Nevertheless schemes like Atal Pension Yojana, PM Vaya Vandana Yojana, Vayoshri Yojana, Vayoshrestha Samman, Sankalp etc are lying to provide avenues of support for elderly.

Remarks

Q10. Instead of ensuring that tribals are not ousted from the land to which they are historically and culturally connected, the state becomes more concerned about fulfilling contractual obligations towards the private investor. Is the statement true in Indian context? Discuss with examples. (10 Marks)

The sharp displacement of tribals from ancestral land has become a crude reality due to insensitive actions of state that prejudicially favour pvt contractors.

* In case of Jharkhand, state authorities often cite inadequate land claims to drive out tribal inhabitants.

* In Odisha, the land which was not given to pvt investor owing to tribal protests and court orders has now been included in dedicated Land Bank which the govt would be allowing under "Plug & Play" Policy for ease of doing business.

This shows skewed - collusive interest of the state in sidelining the claims of the tribals, ignoring the 'Gram Sabha' consent for land acquisition and providing inadequate compensation.

Remarks

This tribal apathy, to rein in investment for economic gains on the pretent of employment are harming tribal survival & culture, ^{even} driving them to Naxalism.

Respecting tribal rights, & Eg forest Rights Act 2006, restoring faith in state, rejuvenating economy by promoting handicrafts, agriculture etc can go a long way

Remarks

Section B

Q11. Multiculturalism is part of the Indian society and any attempt to monochrome it will be self-defeating. Do you agree, the multicultural nature of Indian society has been under threat in the recent years? Provide some suggestions on how to strengthen the cohesive nature of Indian society. (15 Marks)

Multi-culturalism and Mutual Coexistence

from the foundation of Indian existence, despite efforts eg by British, narrow minded parochial kings, the diversity of society and acceptance of differences has continued till today.

But often due to certain groups, this fabric is under strain.

- o) Majority vigilantism to enforce traditional purity notions, ways of dressing, eating etc
- o) Conservative attitude by minorities trying to segregate themselves from united national identity
- o) Use of vote bank politics, fielding candidates in election by caste-community calculations etc has proved a threat to communal harmony.
- o) Use of technology, social media to spread hatred and fake news for instigating violence

Remarks

has caused harm to regional peace & unity.

- o) Rise of Extremism and fundamental ideas due to Juroism.
- o) Role of External State actors also cannot be denied in disturbing multicultural unity.

In order to strengthen cohesive nature -

- o) Greater Engagement, Communication, Economic linkages and Community Participation can help.
- o) Educating youth about rich cultural heritage and history in non partisan manner.
- o) Spreading awareness about events like National Movement, Festivals, Regional Unity that coalesce our cultures into one entity.
- o) As SC: Abhiram Singh vs Commochem, eliciting votes on basis of community, caste, religion be illegal can go a long way in supporting developmental politics.
- o) Media support in facilitating cultural exchanges, "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat" prog, using sports, entertainment, yoga, etc as common grounds.

Synergised efforts for a coordinated and coexistential approach can rejuvenate Indian cultural of diversity and respect for all.

Remarks

o) Promoting Tourism across regions can facilitate exchange of cuisine & appreciation of events.

o) State support for languages, cuisine or cultural art forms ~~are~~ that are not getting patronage, to rejuvenate rich culture.

⊕ By greater Interconnectedness and Mingling together, we can ensure that cohesive nature of Indian society is maintained

Remarks

Q12. Contemporary India looks like a modern country with scientific establishments, but set in a social situation reeking of medievalism, caste discrimination, religious obscurantism, and superstitions. Discuss the statement with necessary examples.

(15 Marks)

The face of contemporary India is adorned by the pride of being World's largest democracy and hosting vibrant scientific community as well as scientific establishments.

- Indian IT Industry is growing by leaps & bounds along with Internet Penetration.
- Space Technology has brought laurels to nation by advanced mission & launching capability
- Defence Modernisation has placed India on world map of Superpowers.
- Growth in Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology, Sciences is also commendable.

But still, the veil of ignorance seems drawn due to persistent superstitions, caste system and communal atmosphere / violence:

- Conservative attitude of Religious leaders, perpetuates patriarchal set up where domestic violence, sexual harassment persists.

Remarks

- Caste discrimination has led to new identities drawn based on caste, leading to "caste rigidity" & "deepening" instead of "caste annihilation".
- Religious Obscurantism bars the intermingling and cultural synergy, promoting sectional interests and ideologies.
- Khap Panchayats, Kangaroo Courts in Haryana, Maharashtra maintain a stronghold on village determining caste behaviour.
- Inter caste marriage is highly condemned, honour killings, ^{being} outcaste is seen.
- Superstitions like sacrificial killings still exist Witchcraft suspects are killed Eg Thakhand, Odisha.
- Manual scavengers still exist despite Swachh Bharat Abhiyan & Rehabilitation Mechanisms.
- India has a third of world's total child brides, dowry system still exists.
- Religion continues to hold strong determinance in civil matters like divorce, marriage etc.

Remarks

◦ Temple Entry is often barred for women and lower caste communities

These examples suggest a pitiabile social situation that prevents further progress in terms of education & development also. It prevents equal progress and must be contained by spread of sensitisation, awareness & rational principles to liberate India of ~~the~~ Traditional ~~super~~ Superstructures.

Remarks

Q13. Restricting legal access to abortion does not decrease the need for abortion, but it is likely to increase the number of women seeking illegal and unsafe abortions, leading to increased morbidity and mortality. Explain the statement in Indian context. Do you think, there is a need for updating provisions for abortion in the light of recent judgements by the Supreme Court? (15 Marks)

The legal access to Abortion provides a right of self determination over sexuality of a woman and bodily autonomy as well as respects decision of the mother. Restricting this legal access, may not decrease need for such abortions due to unwanted pregnancy, foetal abnormality or risk to mother's life but this may drive abortions into unhygienic spaces causing morbidity or even maternal deaths in high risk cases.

India currently, under Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, ~~also~~ puts a 20 week limit to abortion and defines conditions as well for abortion that include

Remarks

high risk to woman's life or foetus being seriously handicapped due to abnormalities.

> Recent judgements by SC include 'special case' of allowing abortion for a rape victim beyond 20 week window.

> Also, foetus suffering from brain disorder was also allowed abortion as it caused grave threat to woman's life.

Considering these cases, the MTP Bill 2014 and other suggestions must be taken to amend the act and extend the 20 week limit or relax in specific cases.

o) Since foetal abnormalities are evident only by 18th week, window must be extended to at least 24 weeks to allow parents & doctors to take a call.

o) In cases of grave injury to mother or being

Remarks

a rape victim, norms must be relaxed so as to allow rights of self determination to the woman who will be responsible for child care.

•) Even in cases of abnormalities, special standard operating procedures must be in place, expert group of doctors must take a call to avoid litigation & judicial delays in such cases

The scientific advancements must be taken benefit of to avoid damage to woman's / child's life and also proper abortion law changes can go a long way in giving recognition to woman's Bodily Autonomy

Remarks

Q14. Child safety is an imperative issue in India now a day with today's porous digital boundaries making children vulnerable to sometimes damaging content and child abuse rampant all over the country. Analyze the statement with help of data. What can be the measures taken to ensure child safety in India? (15 Marks)

India accounts for nearly 19% world's children and data suggests that nearly 1 in 2 have experienced some kind of child abuse - physical, sexual etc.

NCRB data report a spike in child abuse cases last year as also digital penetration has made them vulnerable to harmful content online as well as cyberbullying, harassment, etc. Recent cases of abuse against children have raised alarm and questioned the institutional apathy & lethargy in dealing with cases of abuse due to neglect.

- > Many children are lured into clicking and sharing personal photos
- > Becoming easy targets of child pornography.

Remarks

> Recent swathe of Blue Whale Game exposed children to compulsive game directions causing suicide and self harming behaviour.

> Destructive scenes, adult content and aggressive content viewed by children can seriously harm their psychological health and state.

All stakeholders need to buckle up to ramp up child safety as a priority.

- o) A coordinated approach of Govt, School and Parents can yield max benefits
- o) Continuous monitoring & communication with children
- o) Reducing screen time and encouraging outdoor games, activities, interaction, sports etc
- o) Sensitising children and teacher good/safe Internet surfing norms as well as use of Restricted mode
- o) Taking care of mental health of child to avoid feeling of isolation, ignorance etc that may

Remarks

lead to inappropriate behaviour.

o) Even in schools, proper care must be taken while employing teaching & non teaching staff using psychometric testing.

o) Safety be kept a priority, expanding safe coache facilities, community monitoring of kids.

A multi pronged approach can alone ensure that children are kept in safe Environment and can enjoy 'golden childhood'.

Remarks

Q15. Muslim communities are still, largely, wandering through a haze, as they grapple with, on the one side, internal doctrinaires who have laced regressive thinking with the opium of romance of purity in medieval lifestyle at pinnacle of Islamic civilization, and on the other, an external pseudo-intellectual assault that stereotypes all Muslims into images of violence and gender oppression. In this context, discuss the need and nature of Islamic modernity. (15 Marks)

The present day Islam poses a sharp dilemma between the fundamentalist and conservative attitudes of leaders and the modern intent of civility that abhors all forms of gender ~~equal~~ oppression & violence & paints a grim picture of Islam itself.

Certain medieval style rituals persist that deny women equal right of self expression & autonomy, specially in ~~our~~ Islamic Arab countries that appears/poses as a threat to modern rational ideas and attitudes.

In this context, Islamic Modernity is the need of the hour in order to rejuvenate the ~~ancient~~ faith's true virtues and preserve its acceptance worldwide.

Remarks

- o) Islamic fundamentalism is wreaking havoc as terrorism in most parts of world.
- o) This has been increasing hatred for the community in people of other religions.
- o) Also, the progressive people are painted by the same brush and this can further reinforce conservative attitude in them.

Islam is a religion of brotherhood and peace based on the ideals of one God and unity of soul. These notions need to be revived to bring in true nature of Islam at the forefront.

o) The nature of reform must be primarily from community itself by acknowledging changing times and need of economy.

Eg. Saudi Arabia has allowed women to drive & Iran has ~~discriminated~~ prevented arrests of those women who do not wear a "hijab".

Remarks

o) Modernity must ^{be} embrace by all by consensus and giving equal [^]rights of human dignity. law can be a source of social change eg. in case of declaration of Triple Talag as illegal.

o) Medieval glory in architecture, cuisine, heritage must be spread while developing closer synthesis with other religions as well as developing world.

Islamic modernity can liberate human consciousness of Muslim communities & recognition of its true tenets of peace can instill ~~calm~~ harmony in the world. by education, integration & reform.

Remarks

Q16. Homelessness is one of the manifestations of poverty in India. While highlighting the extent of homelessness in India, discuss how the success of National Urban Livelihood Mission can contribute in reduction of poverty and providing shelters to urban poor? (15 Marks)

Homelessness is regarded as the worst form of poverty suffering, the absence of roof on head, exposes the person to adversities of nature, community & society.

2011 Census pegs the figure of homeless at 1.77 million or 0.15% of Indian population. The constant urbanisation, degree of informalisation of economy, is set to increase this figure due to urban homeless. specifically migrants & destitutes.

National Urban Livelihood Mission, aims (NULM) to tackle poverty and provide gainful employment to the urban poor so that they can break the cycle of poverty and make their ends meet.

o) NULM seeks to build capacity of the urban poor by organising them.

Remarks

- o) Only institutions driven by poor themselves, can help them alleviate their conditions
- o) Providing training for skill enhancement to engage in remunerative jobs.
- o) Allow linkages with other programmes for food security, Eg PDS, water availability & health, education etc
- o) Providing shelters to urban poor Eg, in Delhi, Mizoram for homeless can help provide basic services for dignified survival
- o) NULM trusts on the innate abilities of the poor & entrepreneurial spirit to come out of poverty.
- o) External support by credit, education facilities, street vendors, SHGs, etc can help fuel employment opportunities.

Remarks

NULM seeks to take a comprehensive approach towards Urban poverty alleviation but it must be clubbed with PM Awas Yojana - Housing for all by 2022 as well as Credit Schemes Skill devt Mission to empower the poor and reduce poverty

Remarks

Q17. What are the salient features of New Urban Agenda (NUA) of UN Habitat. Discuss how the adoption of NUA can successfully contribute to Smart Cities Mission of India?
(15 Marks)

Remarks

Q18. Child marriage is failure of Indian society in its efforts to women empowerment and inclusiveness. In this context while highlighting the prevalence of child marriage in India, elaborate on the factors responsible for it and measures to prevent it.

(15 Marks)

Child Marriage is one of the worst social evil prevalent in India that reflects our inadequate efforts towards women empowerment, social change and inclusive dept.

$\frac{1}{3}$ of total child brides in ^{World} ~~India~~ are Indian (UN Population fund). NFHS survey reflects that aged between 21-24yrs, near to 50% women were married as minors. Rajasthan & Jharkhand have a prevalence rate of 65% & 63% resp. suggesting the gravity of issue.

Factors responsible for child marriage:

-) Low Education among ~~the~~ Girls - it has a cyclical relation with marriage, due to which they are married early.
-) Conservative Patriarchal attitude - of considering ~~men~~ girls as 'Paraya Dhan' or a burden on

Remarks

family due to dowry expenses.

- o) Poor self autonomy to women - who are not even consented before being married off.
- o) Norms to control sexuality of women - early in life and sanctity / purity of marital norms.
- o) Need for extra hands to labour at home - due to larger families eg in rural areas prompts bringing daughters in laws early.
- o) Concern for safety of single young girls - eg in rural areas & slums prompts early marriage too.

Measures to prevent this scourge -

- o) Education of women & training - who can delay marriage of their daughters / sons.
- o) Educating girls and sensitizing them
- o) Preventing school dropouts & child labours by constant school monitoring & parent teacher interaction
- o) Sensitizing about health risks, psychological & physical burden on young girls due to marriage.
- o) Strict Implementation of Prevention / Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006.

Remarks

- o) Punishment to religious priests solemnising such marriages & media activism.
- o) Child helpline & Civil Society support to report cases of child marriages.
- o) Novel approaches Eg. KT declares marriage below 18-21 yrs for girls & boys as void ab initio.
- o) CABE Committee recommendation of making girls education free till post graduation
- o) Sensitizing boys about responsible and late marriages as well as employment / education

A sustained effort is required to prevent child marriages and allow rights of self determination & healthy living to girls & boys in India.

Remarks

Q19. India stands in sharp contrast with the spatial development in China and the US, where intermediate cities have become the new drivers of growth and job creation with time. In light of the statement, examine the challenges, India's medium size cities are facing in becoming the drivers of growth. Also suggest some policy measures in this regard. (15 Marks)

In contrast ^{to} the growth trajectory of USA & China, Indian growth continues to be concentrated in Metro cities like Delhi, Mumbai or just Bangalore, Pune etc, the inability of intermediate cities to rise is causing problems of congestion, pollution, overcrowding, crime, inadequate services etc hampering ^{balanced} regional growth

Challenges being faced are:

- 1) Lack of adequate funds - to develop city amenities conducive for growth of business/employment opportunities

Remarks

- o) Inadequate Infrastructure - housing, water, roads, electricity, buildings etc are pre-requisites for growth, but they are lacking.
- o) Lack of Conducive Policies - to attract investment of prt firms is also a setback.
- o) Lack of Communication & Logistics - that hampers connectivity to major clusters.

Policy measures that can help -

- o) Smart City Approach - by developing 100 Smart Cities with basic urban amenities & Infrastructure.
- o) Generating local funds by taxation & Municipal Bonds etc - to improve infrastructure, electricity, transport, airway, railway connectivity
- o) Conducive policy by ULBs & State Support.
- o) Use of technology - low cost & advanced - Eq for traffic management, waste management, cyber security, street lighting, renewable energy sources
- o) Developing Standard Educational Institutes - which can be future drivers of growth

Remarks

- o) Regional Integration using a cluster based approach depending upon resources in region.
Eg Food processing, IT, pharma, manufacturing etc
- o) Encouraging direct tie ups with International firms Eg in Gujarat can help gain & new technology and performance.

Medium cities have a chance to be developed in a sustainable & inclusive manner which must be done by collaborative & evidence based policy making.

Remarks

Q20. The Uberization phenomenon is the new disruption in transportation in urban India. it's more than just hailing a taxi. In this context, discuss the need and importance of concept of transport as a service (TaaS) and Uberization for India. (15 Marks)

The Uberization has reined in a new era of transportation which allows more personal, comfortable conveyance facilities as well as provide employment to skilled drivers in huge numbers across cities.

This disruption has posed a challenge to other public transport like the metros, buses etc! due to end-to-end connectivity and ease of service availability / accessibility by increasing internet penetration.

Recognizing Transport as a Service is very crucial as -

- a) It will help focus on the service orientation - ease of using service, comfort etc which were hitherto ignored.

Remarks

-) It will open up new avenues of engagement in productive employment opportunity
-) It can also facilitate covering these activities as part of formal economy by providing social benefits to Employees at taxi firms which are very vulnerable today.
-) Taas can provide an impetus to the bustling service industry in India & contribute to production activity as well, alleviating income & aiding distribution of income.

'Uberization' has truly brought a new change in the way work is organised or economic relations are maintained.

-) It allows workers to have a sense of autonomy over work and earn money / regular income even as gig economy part.

Remarks

o) At the same time, 'uberization' is also raising issues about social security of workers who can be easily hired & fired & have to constantly earn revenues / meet targets creating pressure.

These services are nevertheless ~~are~~ shifting paradigms in the transport sector in India and contributing to the Urban Growth.

Remarks