

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER I-IV

Mains

Solved Papers (2023)

Solved Paper 2023

General Studies

Paper I

There are twenty questions. All Questions are Compulsory.

Questions 1-9 are 10 marks each and 150 words.

Questions 10-20 are 15 marks each and 250 words.

1. Explain the role of geographical factors towards the development of Ancient India.

(Answer in 150 words)

Ans: The geographical factors are:

- **Rivers:** The Indus and the Ganges rivers supported emergence and growth of urban civilizations, such as the Harappan and the Mauryan by providing fertile land for agriculture and facilitating trade and communication with regions like Mesopotamia and China
- **Mountains:** They acted as a natural defense against foreign invasions and cold winds. Passes, such as the Khyber and the Bolan, enabled cultural exchange and migration, as seen in the arrival of the Aryans and the Kushans.
- **Coastal plains:** The long coastline of India fostered maritime trade and commerce with Southeast Asia, West Asia, and Africa and helped in the spread of Indian culture, religion, and philosophy, especially Buddhism, to other parts of Asia.
- **Forests and plateaus:** The forested regions and plateaus provided economic resources, such as timber, minerals, medicinal plants, and animals.
- **Desert and semi-arid regions:** The Thar desert served as a natural barrier against attacks from the west but also witnessed the development of trade routes and centres.
- **Climate:** The monsoonal climate enabled the cultivation of diverse crops, such as rice and wheat, which influenced the dietary habits, festivals, and agrarian practices of India.

(183 words)

2. What was the difference between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore in their approach towards education and nationalism?

(Answer in 150 words)

Ans: *Approach Towards Education*

Aspect	Mahatma Gandhi	Rabindranath Tagore
Philosophical Foundation	Practical and moral education, rooted in Indian culture	Holistic and liberal education, fostering creativity and universal values

Aspect	Mahatma Gandhi	Rabindranath Tagore
Educational Concept	“Nai Talim” (Basic Education)	Emphasis on creativity and arts
Curriculum Focus	Intellectual, vocational, and moral education	Artistic, creative, and intellectual pursuits
Self-Reliance	Emphasized self-reliance and self-sufficiency	Encouraged a universal outlook
Pedagogical Methods	Hands-on learning, manual labour, and community engagement	Encouragement of critical thinking and artistic expression
Cultural Emphasis	Rooted in Indian cultural traditions	Emphasized cultural exchange and universal human values

Approach Towards Nationalism

Aspect	Mahatma Gandhi	Rabindranath Tagore
Philosophy	Emphasized non-violence (Satyagraha)	Advocated a more universalist view
Means of Struggle	Non-violent civil disobedience	Emphasized the importance of culture, humanism, and internationalism
Nationalism	Strong focus on Indian nationalism	Indian nationalism tempered with a broader humanistic perspective
Political Activism	Played a central role in political movements like Non-Cooperation and Civil Disobedience Movements	Advocated cultural and intellectual exchange with the world
Role in Independence	Played a pivotal role in the Indian independence movement, using non-violent resistance as a tool	Supported the Indian nationalist cause but with a focus on transcending narrow nationalism

(180 words)

3. Bring out the socio-economic effects of the introduction of railways in different countries of the world.

(Answer in 150 words)

- Ans:**
- Railways played a crucial role in facilitating industrialization by providing a faster and more efficient means of transporting raw materials and finished goods. This spurred economic growth and development in many countries.
 - The expansion of railways often led to the growth of cities and urban areas as they became important transportation hubs.
 - The construction and operation of railways created jobs for a wide range of workers. This had a positive impact on employment rates in many countries.
 - Railways facilitated the movement of agricultural products from rural areas to urban markets leading to increased agricultural production and income.

- Railways made it easier to transport goods over long distances, promoting trade both within countries and between nations.
- Railways made it easier for people to travel, leading to increased cultural exchange and the spread of ideas and information.
- Railways made leisure travel more accessible to the middle class, contributing to the growth of the tourism industry in many countries.
- Introduction of railways led people across socio-economic strata to board the railways for travel and leisure as well as work. This dented the caste system to some degree. **(192 words)**

4. Discuss the consequences of climate change on the food security in tropical countries. *(Answer in 150 words)*

Ans: Tropical countries are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to their high dependence on agriculture and exposure to extreme weather events.

Here are some of the key consequences of climate change in tropical countries:

- Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and increased occurrences of extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and storms can lead to reduced crop yields.
- Climate change can disrupt traditional planting and harvesting seasons, making it difficult for farmers to predict when to plant and harvest their crops. This can lead to crop failures and decreased food production.
- Changes in precipitation due to climate change can result in water scarcity in many tropical regions.
- Warmer temperatures and changing weather patterns can create more favorable conditions for pests and diseases that affect crops and livestock.
- Sea-level rise and coastal erosion can lead to the loss of arable land and saline intrusion into freshwater sources, making agriculture in these areas increasingly difficult. **(159 words)**

5. Why is the world today confronted with a crisis of availability of and access to freshwater resources? *(Answer in 150 words)*

Ans: The world's population continues to grow, leading to increased demand for freshwater resources for drinking, agriculture, and industrial purposes. This puts pressure on existing water sources.

Climate change is altering weather patterns, leading to more frequent and severe droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events. These changes disrupt the availability and distribution of freshwater resources. Pollution from industrial, agricultural, and urban sources can contaminate freshwater bodies, making them unsuitable for human consumption and ecosystem health.

Freshwater resources are being extracted at rates that exceed their natural replenishment rates.

Inefficient irrigation practices, can lead to significant waste and reduced availability for other uses. Water scarcity is often exacerbated by unequal distribution of resources, both within and between countries. Rapid economic development can increase water demand for industrial processes and urbanization, further straining water resources.

Destruction of wetlands, deforestation, and other forms of environmental degradation can harm the ecosystems that support freshwater resources. **(158 words)**

- 6. How are the fjords formed? Why do they constitute some of the most picturesque areas of the world?** *(Answer in 150 words)*

Ans: Fjords are long, narrow, deep inlets of the sea that are typically surrounded by steep cliffs or mountains. They are formed through a combination of geological and glacial processes, and they are indeed some of the most picturesque natural features in the world.

Fjords are primarily formed by the erosive action of glaciers. During periods of glaciation (ice ages), massive glaciers advance and move down valleys, carving out U-shaped troughs as they go.

Fjords are often surrounded by steep cliffs or mountains on both sides. The steep terrain adds to their dramatic and picturesque appearance.

Fjords offer breathtaking natural scenery with their crystal-clear waters, towering cliffs, and often snow-capped peaks.

Fjords provide unique habitats for various marine and terrestrial species. The nutrient-rich waters and sheltered environments make them ecologically diverse, attracting a wide range of wildlife and vegetation. **(163 words)**

- 7. Why is the South-West monsoon called 'Purvaiya' (easterly) in Bhojpur Region? How has this directional seasonal wind system influenced the cultural ethos of the region?** *(Answer in 150 words)*

The South-West monsoon is called 'Purvaiya' (easterly) in the Bhojpur region due to its direction of arrival. The term "Purvaiya" translates to "easterly winds" in Hindi and other languages spoken in the region. The monsoon winds typically blow from the southwest to the northeast across the Indian subcontinent, bringing much-needed rainfall during the summer months.

The arrival of the monsoon is often celebrated with festivals and rituals in various parts of India, including the Bhojpur region. These festivals are an integral part of the cultural calendar and reflect the significance of the monsoon in people's lives.

Like in other parts of India, the monsoon season brings an abundance of fresh vegetables and fruits, which are used in traditional dishes.

The monsoon, with its rains and associated natural phenomena, has been a rich source of inspiration for folklore, music, and art in the region. Traditional clothing and architectural designs in the Bhojpur region have adapted to the climate, including the monsoon **(160 words)**

- 8. Do you think marriage as a sacrament is losing its value in Modern India?** *(Answer in 150 words)*

Ans: In modern India, marriage as a sacrament seems to be losing its value and significance to some extent. The reasons are:

- Modern India has seen rise in individualism, and love marriages often take precedence over traditional values which some argue may be seen as less sacred.
- Divorce can be seen as a sign that marriage is less sacrosanct.
- In modern times, individuals are often delaying marriage to focus on education and career.

- The financial and social empowerment of women has also seen the loosening grip of the institution of marriage in society.
- Cohabitation without formal marriage has become more accepted, especially among urban and educated youth.
- However, even now the ceremonies, rituals, and traditions continue to be deeply rooted in Indian culture and still serve as a fundamental institution for companionship and emotional support.

Social pressure and family traditions continue to emphasize the importance of marriage and a majority of Indians still see this as a vital mechanism for the continuity of family lineage.

(166 words)

9. Explain why suicide among young women is increasing in Indian society.

(Answer in 150 words)

Ans: According to the National Crime Records Bureau, suicide rate for young Indian women has risen from 12.7/100,000 (2011) to 17.5/100,000 (2021). This is much higher than the global average of 10.4/100,000. *Several factors contribute to this alarming trend.*

They are:

- Forced or early marriages can lead to emotional distress and limited life choices for young women.
- A prevalent issue, domestic violence can push women to extreme measures.
- Unequal access to education and lower literacy rates can hinder young women's empowerment and economic independence.
- Societal expectations regarding marriage, motherhood, and career can create immense stress.
- Financial reliance on male family members can leave women vulnerable to abuse and mental health issues.
- A lack of awareness and stigma surrounding mental health issues can prevent young women from seeking help.
- The rise of social media has increased exposure to cyberbullying and online harassment.
- Problems in romantic relationships or marital conflicts can be triggers for suicide.
- Exposure to idealized images of beauty and success in the media

(163 words)

10. Child cuddling is now being replaced by mobile phones. Discuss its impact on the socialization of children.

(Answer in 250 words)

Ans: Child cuddling is a form of physical affection that helps children feel secure, loved and connected to their caregivers. However, in recent years, some parents have been substituting child cuddling with mobile phones, giving their children devices to keep them entertained and distracted.

Benefits of Child Cuddling:

- Helps children feel secure, loved, and emotionally connected to their caregivers, promoting a strong attachment bond.
- Soothes and comforts children, reducing stress and anxiety, and teaching them how to self-regulate their emotions.

- Physical touch and affection stimulate brain development, leading to improved cognitive abilities.
- Cuddling involves non-verbal communication, teaching children about facial expressions, tone of voice, and body language.
- It contributes to a healthy sense of self-worth and identity, as children feel valued and cherished by their caregivers.

Negative Consequences of Replacing Cuddling with Mobile Phones:

- Children who don't receive enough physical affection from their parents may have difficulty developing emotionally.
- For infants and young children, cuddling is crucial for their emotional and cognitive development.
- The blue light emitted from smartphones can interfere with sleep.
- Children who use their phones excessively may have difficulty paying attention in school and other activities.
- Children who use social media are at risk of being cyberbullied.

Therefore, it is important for parents to balance the use of mobile phones with child cuddling in their daily routines. They should limit the screen time of their children and themselves and create more opportunities for physical affection and interaction. (239 words)

- 11. What are the main features of Vedic society and religion? Do you think some of the features are still prevailing in Indian society?** (Answer in 250 words)

Ans: Main features of Vedic society and religion:

- **Ritualistic society:** The Vedic people performed elaborate sacrifices, known as Yajnas, to appease various gods and seek their blessings.
- **Caste system:** Vedic society was divided into four main classes, or varnas, based on their occupation and birth. The caste system determined one's rights and duties.
- **Importance of the Vedas:** Vedas were the sacred scriptures of the Vedic religion, containing hymns, rituals, and philosophical insights.
- **Polytheism:** Vedic gods represented various natural forces and cosmic principles, such as Indra (god of thunder and rain), Agni (god of fire), Varuna (god of water and law), Surya (god of sun), Usha (goddess of dawn), etc. The Vedic people also believed in some abstract concepts, such as Rita (cosmic order), Dharma (moral duty), Karma (action and consequence), etc .
- **Concept of Dharma:** Vedic people believed in the concept of Dharma, which means moral duty or righteousness.
- **Agricultural economy:** Vedic people cultivated various crops, such as barley, wheat, rice, millet, etc., and also domesticated animals, such as cows, horses, sheep, goats, etc., for milk, meat, wool, transport, etc.
- **Patriarchy:** The Vedic society was patriarchal, i.e., men had more power and authority than women.

Some features still prevailing in Indian society today:

- Caste system still influences many aspects of Indian society, such as marriage, education, employment, politics, etc.
- Vedas still provide spiritual guidance and inspiration.
- The concept of Dharma is still relevant in Hindu ethics and philosophy.
- Agriculture is still a major sector of the Indian economy, providing livelihood to more than half of the population.
- Although women have made significant progress in various fields, such as education, politics, sports, etc., patriarchy is still a challenge in Indian society. (279 words)

12. What were the major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period? How did those technological changes influence the Indian society?

(Answer in 250 words)

Ans: The major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period were:

- **Architecture and construction:**
 - Emergence of Indo-Islamic architecture, which combined elements of Islamic and Indian styles.
 - Use of arches, domes, and minarets became common, creating structures like the Qutub Minar and the Alai Darwaza in Delhi.
 - New materials like gypsum and lime paste improved building plastering, while lime as a cementing agent (mortar) began to be used.
- **Agriculture:**
 - The Persian wheel, also known as Rahat in India, was introduced.
 - The 'gaz-i-sikandari' instrument streamlined land measurement, making revenue collection more efficient.
- **Art and craft:**
 - Advancements in the art of calligraphy, which influenced manuscript illustrations and the production of beautifully decorated manuscripts.
 - The adoption of paper and bookbinding techniques facilitated education, culture, and administrative record-keeping.
 - Advanced mining techniques, including vertical bore pits and oval-shaft deep mines, enhanced metal production
- **Textiles:**
 - The introduction of the spinning wheel increased yarn production six-fold.
 - The pitloom accelerated weaving processes and drawloom facilitated simultaneous patterned weaving with different colours.

These technological changes influenced various aspects of life, such as:

- **Political Unity and Expansion:** The availability of well-forged weapons enabled rulers to expand their territories, establish hegemony, and maintain political unity.
- **Architectural Legacy:** The iconic use of arches, domes, and intricate designs in structures like mosques, tombs, and forts left an indelible imprint on architectural aesthetics.

- **Economic Prosperity:** Improved water management systems enhanced crop yields, leading to surplus food production.
- **Cultural Renaissance:** The era saw the beginning of historiography and record-keeping in India, laying the foundation for future historical scholarship. Libraries and centers of learning flourished, promoting education and the dissemination of knowledge. (274 words)

13. How did the colonial rule affect the tribals in India and what was the tribal response to the colonial oppression? (Answer in 250 words)

Ans: Colonial rule in India had a significant and often detrimental impact on the tribal communities, also known as Adivasis or Scheduled Tribes.

Impact of Colonial Rule on Tribals:

- The British introduced the concept of private property rights. Many tribal lands were taken over by non-tribal landlords, leaving Adivasis landless and marginalized.
- The colonial government introduced forest policies that restricted tribal access to forest resources.
- Tribals were often subjected to forced labour and exploitative land revenue systems.
- The introduction of missionary activities and Western education led to social and cultural disruptions in tribal societies.

Tribal Responses to Colonial Oppression:

- *Santhal Rebellion (1855-56)* : Led by Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu, the Santhals resisted land alienation, exploitation, and cultural erosion by the British and their local agents.
- *Bhil Revolt (1822-57)* : The Bhils of western India fought against the British encroachment on their lands, forests, and autonomy.
- *Kol Revolt (1831-32)* : The Kols of Chota Nagpur Plateau revolted against the British interference in their traditional governance system, land rights, and taxation policies.
- *Bastar Rebellion (1910-11)* : The tribals of Bastar in central India rose against the British forest policies that restricted their access to forest resources and livelihoods.
- *Naga Movement (1918 onwards)* : The Nagas of Northeast India launched a movement for self-determination and autonomy from British rule. They formed the Naga Club in 1918 to voice their grievances and aspirations.
- *Munda Rebellion (1899-1900)* : The Mundas of Chota Nagpur Plateau rebelled against the British land tenure system that deprived them of their ancestral lands and rights.
- *Kuki-Chin-Mizo Movement (1917-19)* : The Kuki-Chin-Mizo tribes of Northeast India resisted the British attempts to recruit them as porters and labourers for World War I.

(272 words)

14. Comment on the resource potentials of the long coastline of India and highlight the status of natural hazard preparedness in these areas. (Answer in 250 words)

Ans: Resource Potential of India's Long Coastline:

1. **Fisheries:** India's coastline is rich in marine resources, making it one of the world's top producers of fish. The fishing industry is a significant contributor to the country's economy and a source of livelihood for millions of people.

2. **Ports and Shipping:** The coastline is dotted with numerous ports, including major ones like Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata. These ports play a vital role in India's international trade, and the shipping industry is a key driver of economic growth.
3. **Tourism:** India's coastal areas are known for their beautiful beaches, historic sites, and cultural attractions. Coastal tourism is a significant source of revenue, with states like Goa, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu attracting domestic and international tourists.
4. **Renewable Energy:** India's coastline offers immense potential for renewable energy, especially wind and solar power. Offshore wind farms and solar installations along the coast contribute to the country's energy needs.

Status of Natural Hazard Preparedness:

1. **Cyclone Preparedness:** India has a well-established cyclone warning system, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) providing timely forecasts and warnings.
2. **Tsunami Warning System:** After the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, India, in collaboration with other nations, has developed a tsunami early warning system. This system helps in providing timely alerts to coastal communities in the event of a tsunami threat.
3. **Coastal Zone Management:** The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) guidelines regulate development and activities along the coastline to mitigate coastal erosion and protect the fragile coastal ecosystem.
4. **Disaster Management Authorities:** Various states have their own disaster management authorities, and India has a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to coordinate disaster response and preparedness at the national level. (272 words)

15. **Identify and discuss the factors responsible for diversity of natural vegetation in India. Assess the significance of wildlife sanctuaries in rain forests regions of India.**

(Answer in 250 words)

Ans: *Key factors responsible for the diversity of natural vegetation in India:*

1. **Climatic Variation:** India's climatic diversity influences the types of vegetation found in different regions. For example, tropical rainforests thrive in the Western Ghats, while temperate forests are found in the Himalayan region.
2. **Geographical Diversity:** India's diverse geography, including mountains, plateaus, plains, deserts, and coastal regions, has a significant impact on the natural vegetation.
3. **Monsoons:** The monsoon rains play a crucial role in determining the distribution of vegetation in India. The seasonal variation in rainfall patterns influences the growth and distribution of forests and grasslands.
4. **Soil Types:** The diversity of soil types across India contributes to the variety of vegetation. Different plants are adapted to grow in specific soil conditions.
5. **Altitude:** High-altitude areas are home to alpine meadows and coniferous forests.
6. **Human Activity:** Human activities, such as deforestation, agriculture, and urbanization, have had a significant impact on the natural vegetation in India. Over the years, these activities have led to changes in the distribution of various plant species.

Significance of wildlife sanctuaries in rainforest regions of India

1. **Conservation of Biodiversity:** Rainforests provide habitat to a wide variety of plant and animal species, including many endangered and endemic species. They help protect these species and their habitats from habitat destruction and poaching.
2. **Scientific Research:** These sanctuaries serve as living laboratories for scientists and researchers to study and understand the ecology, behavior, and life cycles of numerous species.
3. **Ecological Balance:** Rainforests help regulate climate, control soil erosion, and support pollination and seed dispersal processes.
4. **Tourism:** Many of these rainforest sanctuaries are open to eco-tourism, which generates revenue for local communities and governments. (269 words)

16. **Why did human development fail to keep pace with economic development in India?** (Answer in 250 words)

Ans: The question of why human development failed to keep pace with economic development in India is a complex and multifaceted issue. *Here are some of the key reasons:*

1. **Social Inequality:** India has a long history of social and economic inequality, with a rigid caste system, gender disparities, and regional inequalities. These inequalities have persisted and limited the equitable distribution of the benefits of economic growth.
2. **Population Growth:** While India's large population can be an asset, it also poses challenges. Rapid population growth has put tremendous pressure on resources, education, healthcare, and infrastructure, making it difficult to ensure that every citizen benefits from economic development.
3. **Education:** Despite significant improvements in recent decades, India still faces challenges in providing quality education to all its citizens. A lack of access to quality education, high dropout rates, and variations in the quality of education across regions contribute to the disparity between economic and human development.
4. **Healthcare:** Access to healthcare services and the overall health of the population are critical components of human development. While India has made progress in healthcare, challenges such as limited access to healthcare facilities, malnutrition, and a high burden of disease continue to hinder human development.
5. **Informal Economy:** A significant portion of India's workforce is employed in the informal sector, which often lacks job security, benefits, and social protections. This makes it challenging to improve the overall well-being of the population.
6. **Political and Governance Issues:** Inefficiencies and inadequacies in governance can hinder the effective allocation of resources for human development. (260 words)

17. **From being net food importer in 1960s, India has emerged as a net food exporter to the world. Provide reasons.** (Answer in 250 words)

Ans: *India's transformation from a net food importer in the 1960s to a net food exporter in recent years can be attributed to several key factors:*

1. **Green Revolution:** The Green Revolution, initiated in the 1960s, played a pivotal role in increasing agricultural productivity in India. The introduction of high-yielding crop varieties, improved irrigation systems, and the use of fertilizers and pesticides significantly boosted crop yields and allowed India to produce more food than ever before.
2. **Technological Advancements:** Advancements in agricultural technology, such as mechanization and precision agriculture, have further enhanced agricultural productivity. Farmers have access to better seeds, machinery, and agricultural practices, enabling them to produce more food with fewer resources.
3. **Diversification of Crops:** India has diversified its crop portfolio over the years, moving beyond traditional staples like rice and wheat. The cultivation of fruits, vegetables, pulses, and oilseeds has increased, contributing to a more balanced and export-oriented agricultural sector.
4. **Investment in Infrastructure:** India has made investments in rural infrastructure, including roads, storage facilities, and cold chains, which have reduced post-harvest losses and improved the quality of agricultural produce. These developments facilitate the export of fresh and processed food products.
5. **Policy Reforms:** Various policy reforms, including the liberalization of agricultural markets and the promotion of export-oriented agriculture, have encouraged farmers to produce surplus crops for the global market. The introduction of schemes like the National Agriculture Market (eNAM) and the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) has provided support to farmers.
6. **Government Support:** Government policies, such as minimum support prices (MSPs) and subsidies, have provided farmers with a safety net while also encouraging them to produce more. (272 words)

18. **Does urbanisation lead to more segregation and/or marginalization of the poor in Indian metropolises?** (Answer in 250 words)

Ans: *In Indian metropolises, urbanisation has led to more segregation and/or marginalization of the poor in various ways, such as:*

- **Housing:** The poor often live in slums or informal settlements that lack basic amenities, such as water, sanitation, electricity and security.
- **Incomes:** The poor often lack adequate skills, education and access to formal jobs that offer decent wages and social protection.
- **Services:** The poor often face barriers in accessing essential services, such as health care, education, transport and justice. For example, only 6% of urban poor children complete secondary education compared to 50% of urban non-poor children.
- **Discrimination:** The poor often face multiple forms of discrimination and oppression based on their intersecting identities, such as caste, religion and ethnicity.
- **Initiatives:** They are either ignored or neglected by the policy makers who prioritise the interests of the elite or the middle class. For example Dharavi, Asia's largest slum in Mumbai, highlights the failure of urban planning and governance.

Despite these challenges, urbanisation also offers opportunities for the poor:

- **Participation in gig-economy:** Jobs offered by the digital platforms that connect them with customers or employers who need their services. For example, delivery agents or drivers with ride-hailing platforms like Ola or Uber.
- **Anonymity:** The poor can enjoy the anonymity offered by the urban centres that allow them to escape from their oppressive or restrictive rural backgrounds. For example, many Dalits and underprivileged have found freedom and dignity in urban spaces.
- **Government policy focus:** They have better access to schemes that provide housing, infrastructure, livelihoods or social security to them. For example, PM Awas Yojana, AMRUT 2.0, Swachh Bharat Mission, PM SVANidhi etc. **(268 words)**

19. Why is caste identity in India both fluid and static? *(Answer in 250 words)*

Ans: *Fluidity in Caste Identity:*

- Marriages between people of different castes are becoming more common, and this is helping to dismantle rigid social hierarchies.
- People in cities may be less likely to identify with their caste and more likely to identify with their occupation, level of education, or place of residence.
- Globalisation and the rise of the digital age have led to greater tolerance and less reliance on racial and ethnic distinctions.
- Generational differences have resulted in less rigid adherence to traditional caste identities and a more open-minded set of peer groups among today's youth.
- Activism in the social realm includes efforts by individuals and groups to educate the public about caste prejudice and advance the cause of social equality.

Static Aspects of Caste Identity:

- Many castes still practice endogamy, marrying within their own caste to preserve their identity.
- The fear of social stigma can discourage individuals from openly challenging their caste identity.
- Reservation policies as affirmative action aim to uplift historically disadvantaged groups but can also solidify caste divisions.
- Many festivals, rituals, and customs are tied to caste identity, reinforcing its importance in social life.
- Caste-based political parties and movements use caste identity as a rallying point for mobilization, preserving its relevance in politics.
- Economic disparities among castes persist, leading to economic marginalization of lower-caste individuals.
- In many rural areas, caste identity is closely tied to village and community life, making it difficult for individuals to break free from their caste-based roles and responsibilities.

Caste identity in India is both fluid and static because it is constantly evolving and adapting to changing circumstances and contexts. However, it is also persistent and resilient because it is deeply rooted in the history and culture of Indian society. **(285 words)**

20. **Discuss the impact of post-liberal economy on ethnic identity and communalism.**
(Answer in 250 words)

Ans: *Impact of the post-liberal economy on ethnic identity:*

- The post-liberal economy has enabled some ethnic groups, especially the historically marginalized ones, to access education, employment, and urbanization. For example, the reservation system for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- The post-liberal economy has also supported ethnic cultures through initiatives like *One District One Product* and *Incredible India* not only boost tourism but also strengthen the cultural identities of various ethnic communities.
- The post-liberal economy has led to the rise of identity-based politics. For example, regional and caste-based parties like the DMK in Tamil Nadu or the BSP in Uttar Pradesh have emerged as influential political forces in the post-liberal era.
- The post-liberal economy has had mixed effects on social harmony and conflict among ethnic groups. On one hand, it has fostered a sense of unity and diversity among Indians; on the other hand, it has also triggered tensions and violence due to economic disparities, political rivalries, and communal narratives.

Impact of the post-liberal economy on communalism:

- The post-liberal economy has enabled some marginalized groups to improve their economic and social status. However, this has also provoked resentment and backlash from dominant groups, resulting in communal violence.
- While cultural exchanges can foster understanding and tolerance, they can also create anxieties about cultural assimilation and identity loss, which may fuel communalism.
- Disparities in education and employment can be associated with communal tensions if certain groups perceive discrimination or unequal opportunities. For instance, the recent Maratha agitation in Maharashtra highlighted regional disparities.
- Social media can be misused to disseminate false information and hate speech, leading to communal tensions and violence. The 2023 Delhi riots were believed to have been triggered by inflammatory posts on social media.
- Urbanization can create challenges such as overcrowding, pollution, crime, and competition for resources, which can fuel communal conflicts. **(296 words)**

Solved Paper 2023

General Studies

Paper II

There are twenty questions. All Questions are Compulsory.

Questions 1-10 are 10 marks each

Questions 11-20 are 15 marks each

1. **“Constitutionally guaranteed judicial independence is a prerequisite of democracy”. Comment.** *(Answer in 150 words)*

Ans. Constitutionally guaranteed judicial independence has its several advantages. Judiciary cannot become subservient to other bodies. Such independence is in line with the doctrine of separation of powers too.

The Indian Constitution, in conformity with the idea to give judiciary the independence and the stature, has provided for many articles ensuring that it is truly insulated.

Article 124 provides for the establishment of the Supreme Court, and Article 214 for High Courts. Cases of appointment and transfer of judges are to be through National Judicial Appointments Commission (Art 124).

The salaries of judges and attending privileges are guaranteed under Article 125. Importantly, salaries of judges and of the officers and others are paid from the Consolidated Fund to ensure that the executive has no hold over it.

With the said provisions the judiciary has been guaranteed its insulation and independence. The parliament can legislate and act but the Supreme Court has put its seal of finality that “basic structure” of the Constitution cannot be altered. (*Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala, 1973*). In *Minerva Mills Case (1980)*, the Supreme Court held independence of judiciary to be a basic feature of the Constitution. **(192 words)**

2. **Who are entitled to receive free legal aid? Assess the role of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in rendering free legal aid in India.**

(Answer in 150 words)

Ans. Article 39-A (inserted by the 42nd Amendment, 1976) of the Indian Constitution provides for “equal justice and free legal aid”. In pursuance of this, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been set up.

Free Legal Aid is available to the following categories of people.

- (i) A member of scheduled caste or scheduled tribe.
- (ii) A victim of human trafficking or a beggar.

- (iii) A woman or a child.
- (iv) A mentally ill or otherwise disabled person.
- (v) A person in custody or in protective custody home.
- (vi) A juvenile in juvenile home.
- (vii) An individual whose annual income is less than the amount prescribed by the respective government.

National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been doing a commendable job since its inception. Its role in providing free legal assistance to Senior Citizens is particularly noteworthy; its record of handling assistance in more than one lakh cases in 2020 is ample testimony to its work.

Equally remarkable is NALSA's work in providing free legal assistance to women who are victims of domestic violence and abuse.

Undertrials and prisoners too have been benefitting from the assistance provided by NALSA.

However, it is in the realm of spreading awareness in the society that NALSA has excelled itself. (203 words)

3. **“The states in India seem reluctant to empower urban local bodies both functionally as well as financially.” Comment.** (Answer in 150 words)

Ans. Urban Local Bodies are usually starved of funds; they do not have much leverage to generate funds either. Equally, they are powerless too; most of the powers are either with the Union Government or with the State Government.

Functionally, Urban Local Bodies owe their existence to the 74th Amendment to the Constitution (1992). Some select areas have been identified for their operations but the ground reality is that the State Governments are prime and powerful; political interests run counter to encouraging or enriching these bodies. Priorities demand attention of State Governments only where votes matter. Bureaucracy has its own agenda and ambitions; it does not want any risk or change to be taking place. Finances are the main problem. Finance Commission (15th) recommended the instrument of “Grants-in-Aid” to help the Urban Local Bodies. Some states are in a position to do so. Introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) has taken the taxes to the Union Government thereby further constraining the Urban Local Bodies in generation of finances. (165 words)

4. **Compare and contrast the British and Indian approaches to Parliamentary sovereignty.** 10

Ans. British and Indian approaches to Parliamentary sovereignty differ in many ways; some of these differences are basic in a manner and some not so. British Parliamentary System has the Parliament as Supreme and in the Indian Parliamentary System, the Constitution is Supreme.

The British Parliamentary System has a unitary structure with Central Government and Local County Councils whereas Indian Parliamentary System has a federal structure with Union Government at the centre and governments in the States/Union territories.

Under the Parliamentary System in Britain, there's no scope for judicial review of its decisions whereas in India the judicial review is feasible if the basic structure of the Constitution is altered. British sovereign has lesser role or authority compared to Indian President. The main point however is that India's Rajya Sabha, a permanent body, relates to states; even British House of Lords has no such connect with people. The British Constitution is largely unwritten being based on norms and practices whereas the Indian Constitution is written in whole. (166 words)

5. **Discuss the role of Presiding Officers of state legislatures in maintaining order and impartiality in conducting legislative work and in facilitating best democratic practices.** (Answer in 150 words)

Ans. The Presiding Officers in State Legislatures are charged with the duty to maintain order and decorum in the House; in this, they are also expected to be fair and just. They are to follow and implement the rules governing the proceedings. The unruly members are called to order, at times named to caution and in extreme cases suspended or ordered out. The minority party members are protected by giving attention.

Anti-defection provisions as enshrined in the 10th Schedule to the Constitution are implemented fairly by the Presiding Officers. Great care is taken by them to be neutral. They abstain from voting; nor do they participate in debates. They ensure just and fair distribution of time for all opinions across party lines.

Presiding Officers promote goodwill and cooperation in the House. In this, facilitating and ushering in of best democratic practices is vital. Holding meetings with all parties before the session of the House to ensure smooth transaction of business is one practice of merit. "Once a speaker, always a speaker," a practice that speaker elect follows by resigning from his party position in Britain is well worth emulating. (188 words)

6. **The crucial aspect of development process has been the inadequate attention paid to Human Resource Development in India. Suggest measures that can address this inadequacy.** (Answer in 150 words)

Ans. Development process has Human Resources at its centre, inadequacies either in quality or quantity can affect it. India has much more to be concerned; for the resources are limited. There are many challenges; the numbers are mind boggling; the disparities are shocking; the neglect shameful, and the elitist basis so sad.

Education which is the vital part of Human Resource Development is in the concurrent list (item 25) of the Indian Constitution (7th Schedule, Article 246) making it the "plaything" between the Union and the States. Budget allocations of both are inadequate. Matters are furthered worsened by poor infrastructure, shortage of teachers and lack of quality.

Technical education, the quintessential part of skill development, is also afflicted with many ills. Jobs are available aplenty but few are suitable given their poor skills. New Education Policy (2020) has attempted to find the right path addressing the issues at hand. Right to Education (RTE) has gone some way to take education to all; Mid-Day Meals Scheme has served well to meet nutritional requirements.

Measures to bring improvement in Human Resource Development must involve more allocations in budgets, widening the base of skill development and attune the same to job needs. (198 words)

7. **Discuss the role of the Competition Commission of India in containing the abuse of dominant position by the Multi-National Corporations in India. Refer to the recent decisions.** (Answer in 150 words)

Ans. Competition Commission, a statutory body established in 2009 to enforce the provisions of the Competition Act 2002, performs quasi-judicial functions. It gives its opinion on competition issues and seeks to eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition. It aims at protecting the interests of the consumers by ensuring that competition is done in a fair and just manner. In particular, the Commission seeks to curb dominance by enterprises by unfair practices.

The Commission has the powers to investigate and impose penalties in cases of unfair practices being indulged in by enterprises. It reviews mergers and acquisitions to see if any adverse impact is being created on competition. Besides these, the Commission spreads awareness about the rules of the game and the need to be fair and free.

The Commission has taken action against some dominant Multi-National Companies for indulging in unfair trade practices. It has fined WhatsApp for its privacy policy, Google for its Play Store practices and Amazon for its abuse of its dominant position in on-line marketing. Three beer manufacturing companies were fined for unethical cartelization. Google has been slapped with a hefty penalty for abusing its dominant position. (191 words)

8. **E-governance, as a critical tool of governance, has ushered in effectiveness, transparency and accountability in governments. What inadequacies hamper the enhancement of these features?** (Answer in 150 words)

Ans. E-governance has, no doubt, brought in effectiveness, transparency and accountability in governance but it has its' inadequacies too. E-governance in its feature to be effective has to reach all of the society but it is seen to fail owing to lack of awareness, costs involved and general fear of technology. Rapid technological changes too add to the discomfort. As for transparency, e-governance scores well but the fact remains that complicated hardware and cumbersome software impede. Well intended features remain difficult to access and operate. Regarding accountability, e-governance ensures it well with its transparency as well as accuracy. What is of the essence is that e-governance provides for verifiability; any number of times. Even so, people prefer manual hard copies, especially if legal matters are involved.

E-governance sure has its positive and productive features but there are obvious obstacles too. Data protection and cyber security rank high among these. Cases of frauds are on the rise, redressal takes a long time. Glitches and system failures are galore. Perhaps the worst that can be said about e-governance is that it is open to attacks from viruses and hackers. (186 words)

9. **'Virus of Conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO'.**

In the light of the above statement point out the role of India in mitigating the problems. *(Answer in 150 words)*

Ans. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is facing problems, both among its members as also from outside. India and China have border disputes with occasional flare ups; Pakistan and India too have unresolved issues on Kashmir; Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have border disputes. Pakistan and Afghanistan have dispute on Durand Line. Russia and Ukraine are at war.

China is seen to be dominating with its economic push raising suspicions; its "Belt and Road" drive has India in deep distrust. China's expansion into African countries with its strangulating loan schemes is raising suspicions.

There's no unity of purpose among SCO member countries on terrorism. China's stand on terror groups in Pakistan is ambiguous. Russia too has been showing uncertainty in the matter, its soft pedaling on Taliban is so disconcerting.

Notwithstanding all these, the prime aim of countering domination of US dollar needs to be pursued by SCO; for this, economic cooperation must increase. India can play its part by working hard to place infrastructural projects in front. A dispute resolution mechanism is the need of the hour.

People to people contact, cultural exchanges, and expansion in tourism and trade fairs can bond the countries in SCO together. **(193 words)**

10. **Indian diaspora has scaled new heights in the West. Describe its economic and political benefits for India.** *(Answer in 150 words)*

Ans. Indian diaspora in the west has been growing rapidly, both in stature as well as in strength. Its stature has got enhanced due to its willing contribution to the economies of the west, and its strength due to its skills. Its hard work, discipline and adjusting outlook have endeared it to all.

The Indian diaspora contributes very significantly and steadily to the economic and social well-being of the countries in the west. Skilled yet cheap labour with no demands brings lot of benefits to the economy. Growing number of professionals and entrepreneurs are providing employment to the ever increasing number of youths. Equally significantly Indian diaspora is excelling with its impacting spending boosting the economies of the west.

Politically, Indian diaspora is making its impact too; its leaders are rapidly gaining great acceptance. Many are now in the mainstream politics in the countries of the west. Their experience and expertise are of immense help in raising the standard of political debates. Their monetary donations are much in demand, notably in the United States. **(173 words)**

11. **"The Constitution of India is a living instrument with capabilities of enormous dynamism. It is a constitution made for a progressive society". Illustrate with special reference to the expanding horizons of the right to life and personal liberty.** *(Answer in 250 words)*

Ans. The Constitution of India is indeed a document that is fair, farsighted and flexible. It has been instrumental in bringing tectonic changes in the society with its fairness; it has shown remarkable farsightedness with its separation of powers avoiding both rigidity as well as regimentation, and it has permitted of amendments showing flexibility in all its working.

In all of these, fundamental rights lie at the heart. They are both justifiable as well as justiciable. Article 21 of the Constitution says, “No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.” This article though never amended has been totally transformed by judicial pronouncements.

Maneka Gandhi vs Union of India (1978) case had the Supreme Court declare that “procedure must not only be established by law but that it must be just, fair and reasonable.” Subsequent judicial rulings and pronouncements have spelt out the operation of this principle in different situations covering both protection of life as well as personal liberty. Right to live with human dignity has been recognized by the Supreme Court in *State of Maharashtra vs Chandrabhan* where a subsistence allowance of only one rupee was provided to a convicted employee pending his appeal as per Bombay Civil Service Rules, 1959.

In *Olga Tellis Case (1985)*, Supreme Court recognized right to livelihood as right to life within the scope and meaning of Article 21. Right to sleep and freedom from noise have also been held to be repugnant to right to life as envisaged under Article 21.

Data Privacy too has been held to be a fundamental right under Article 21 in *K. S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India (2017)* case paving way for decriminalization of homosexuality in *Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India (2018)* and of adultery in *Joseph Shine vs Union of India case (2018)*.

The understanding of personal liberty too has been broadened by judiciary.

In *Joginder Kumar vs State of UP (1994)*, the Supreme Court laid down guidelines against illegal arrest, detention and custodial death. Similarly, in *D K Basu vs State of West Bengal (1997)* the Supreme Court issued detailed guidelines for Central and State agencies to be followed in cases of arrest and detention.

Violation of personal liberty has been seen by the judiciary from varying angles; delays in disposal of cases to narrow view of granting of bail to solitary confinement to inhuman conditions in jails. (403 words)

12. Explain the constitutional perspectives of Gender Justice with the help of relevant Constitutional Provisions and case laws. (Answer in 250 words)

Ans. Gender justice is one of the corner stones of Indian Constitution; it runs through it like a golden thread encompassing the ideas of liberty, equality and freedom. Very significantly, the Constitution has stressed on it in fundamental and incorporated it in Directive Principles of State Policy too. What is even more significant is that the Constitution has created pioneering institutions to protect, preserve and promote the ideals of gender justice.

The Constitution covers three very vital aspects; one, gender rights of equality, freedom and liberty; two, the establishment of a fair and just society; and three of making provisions for women. The first one is adequately covered in fundamental rights, the second in Directive Principles of State Policy and the third in Election Commission and Panchayati Raj Institution representation.

The Preamble itself covers the ideals of justice, liberty, equality for all to be achieved. Fundamental Rights with Articles 14, 15, 16 pound;

Art.14: Equality before law.

Art.15: Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.

Art.16: Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment.

Fundamental Rights with Article 21 offer protection of life and personal liberty.

Art.23: Regarding right against exploitation covers prohibition against trafficking of human beings.

The Directive Principles of State Policy have guidelines which are Central to governance.

Art.39: Prescribes that “citizens men and women equally have the right to an adequate means of livelihood”.

Art.39 (d): provides that, “there shall be equal pay for equal work for both men and women.”

While the Constitution has set the frame for Gender Justice, the Supreme Court has added to it with relevant guidelines to further the cause. *Vishaka Case (1997)* saw Supreme Court issuing guidelines on sexual harassment at work place. Supreme Court in *Mary Roy’s case (1986)* upheld women’s right to inheritance. (300 words)

13. **Account for the legal and political factors responsible for the reduced frequency of using Article 356 by the Union Governments since mid 1990s.** (Answer in 250 words)

Ans. Since mid-1990s the Union Government has been making reduced usage of Article 356 of the Constitution; the said Article provides for imposition of Central rule over the state in certain exigencies. The reasons, both legal as well as political, are many; the former are directly linked to judicial rulings and the latter are rooted in political developments.

The Supreme Court in its landmark judgement in *S. R. Bommai vs Union of India (1994)* case ruled that floor test has to be done inside the State Assembly. This effectively put an end to all manipulations outside the House. The judgement created a lot of awareness all round and appreciation for the new dispensation.

Provisions of anti-defection law as listed in the 10th schedule began to be enforced rigidly by the courts. The decision of Uttaranchal Assembly speaker in 2022 to disqualify nine rebel members was upheld by the High Court.

Political factors are equally significant. The era of coalition governments, both at the centre as well as the states, ushered in the need to be cautious. Dependence on political parties, a reality, became a harsh fact.

Equally important it is that Union government’s rule under Article 356 is seen as an affront to the spirit of cooperative federalism. It becomes a point of contention.

The one big reason traced to political conditions is that imposition of Central rule under Article 356 allows all the opponents to unite. It becomes overwhelming and overpowering to combat. (243 words)

14. **Discuss the contribution of civil society groups for women’s effective and meaningful participation and representation in state legislatures in India.** (Answer in 250 words)

Ans. Civil Society groups in India are up against many challenges; some of these are deep seated and are near insurmountable. Some other challenges are comparatively less daunting but nevertheless irksome. In the former category are issues emanating from patriarchy and discrimination, the latter category are restrictions on dress, openings in certain jobs.

Civil society groups see the issue of women's representation as a major matter and rightly so; in particular, the representation of women in state legislatures as of enormous consequence. To be part of process of law making has substantial benefits; for one, the voice is heard and secondly, a steady watch could be kept over implementation of critical issues. Needless to add, matters concerning women could be taken forward from the society.

While reservation of seats in the Parliament is an issue hanging fire for many years, reservation of seats to the extent of one-third became a reality in Panchayats and Municipalities consequent upon 73rd/74th amendments to the Constitution getting through. The move has proved to be a success largely.

Currently, India ranks 147th out of 193 countries in terms of women's representation in politics. The representation of women stands at 14.3 percent in the Parliament, the position in State Assemblies being far worse. It is a cause for concern as one half of humanity finds itself less represented.

The reasons for such imbalance are not far to seek. Political parties do not field women candidates owing to their chances of winning be less. Women themselves do not come forward to join politics or be in public life. There exists a feeling, howsoever unfounded, that women are soft and not suitable for rough and tumble of Indian politics. Moreover, politics is perceived as a dirty game where only the corrupt and the cunning can thrive; women are not meant to be in it.

Notwithstanding all the odds that are stalked against them, civil society groups have been active in raising the levels of awareness for due and desired representation of women in state legislatures. The need to sensitise the society is paramount and urgent too.

Civil society groups are working with a multi-pronged approach addressing the vital issues of policy reforms, capacity building and training and also awareness campaigns. Showcasing successful women legislators is inspiring women across the country. What is equally important is networking and research; the former can bring about much needed mobility and the latter the much necessary direction. The danger however is that women should never get restricted to their own issues. (418 words)

15 Explain the significance of the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act. To what extent does it reflect the accommodative spirit of federalism? (Answer in 250 words)

Ans. The 101st Constitutional Amendment Act 2017 introduced Goods and Services Tax in India bringing destination based indirect tax completely overhauling the previous system of multiple indirect taxes levied by Central and State governments separately. The previous system was complex, confusing and had a cascading effect on the economy. Its multiple points of levying and documentation brought in delays and duplication.

The introduction of Goods and Services Tax across the country has simplified indirect tax regime by doing away with of multiple indirect taxes with a single, unified tax to facilitate ease of doing business.

Inter-state trade and commerce has got a boost with the creation of a unified national market eliminating trade barriers and cascading taxes.

Goods and Services Tax System has brought about increased compliances and bigger revenue. The tax buoyancy is helping the government to spend more money on social welfare schemes and developmental activities.

Goods and Services Tax offers relief by way of compensation at the rate of 14 percent to affected states as also it comes as a progressive measure to consumer states without manufacturing base.

Goods and Services Council set up to oversee matters of implementation is democratic in orientation with due representation of both the Union as well as the States/UTs. GST council is a Constitutional body giving it the stature and standing needed.

All in all, Goods and Services Tax was a much needed measure to streamline indirect taxes in the country. Almost all the countries have reformed their tax base. The benefits now accruing show how much the country could have gained had it been introduced earlier. It may be however right to say that it took a long while to bring about a consensus.

Goods and Services Tax dispensation does reflect accommodative and adjusting spirit of federalism. Although voting mechanism is permissible, yet all the decisions in the Goods and Services Tax Council are made through consensus. This reflects maturity that is of the essence and it is aided much by the transparency in the Council's working.

In an accommodative spirit of "give and take", both the Central and State governments have adjusted well. Many of the initial fears have been set to rest, in some instances taxes have been reduced too. What is especially significant is that all the brains are pooled together making best use of resources. Progressive jump in revenue collection year by year bears ample testimony to that. (400 words)

- 16. Explain the structure of the Parliamentary Committee system. How far have the financial committees helped in the institutionalisation of Indian Parliament?** (Answer in 250 words)

Ans. Parliamentary Committees are at the foundation of Democratic System wherein critical work is carried out cutting across party lines. These committees bring in talent, expertise and a level of maturity. In particular, they ensure that order and standards are maintained. They also bring about continuity and unity of purpose to curb ad-hocism.

Parliamentary Committees are of two types; one, the Standing Committees which function irrespective of whether the Parliament is in session or not. Estimates Committee, Public Accounts Committee are two examples.

In addition, there are Ad-hoc committees which are formed for a specific purpose. Joint Committee on specific bills being one example; Joint Committee on "offices of profit" was an ad-hoc committee. Article 105(4) provides the authority for Parliamentary Committees to function. Article 118 clearly lay down that rules of procedure can be made by the Parliament for conduct of its own business.

Public Accounts Committee, PAC, is by norm headed by a member of the opposition. It examines the reports made annually by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and places the same before the Parliament after obtaining the assent from the President.

Estimates Committee, the biggest one, is made of members from the Lok Sabha only as money matters are involved. It provides scrutiny of all estimates for the budget.

In addition, there are Departmental Standing Committees for each ministry.

There are other Committees to facilitate conduct of business and bring discipline in Parliament. Business Advisory Committee, Ethics Committee are two examples.

Financial Committees have ensured that Parliament has full control over money. Departmental Committees prepare budget estimates for each of the ministries; these are examined by the Estimates Committee. The Annual Budget gets them included and passed. After the money has been spent, the CAG audits the same and places its report back in the Parliament for scrutiny. (302 words)

17. **“Development and welfare schemes for the vulnerable, by its nature, are discriminatory in approach.” Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.**

(Answer in 250 words)

Ans. Development and welfare schemes, both intended for the vulnerable, differ in one respect; the former aims to impart knowledge, skill and application so that the beneficiaries can stand on their own feet; the latter provides help and assistance to the needy thereby ensuring that they can lead their lives with dignity and honour. Education is the prime example of development, free foodgrain allocation of welfare schemes.

Development and welfare schemes for the vulnerable are discriminatory but they discriminate positively, the discrimination is intended to help those in need but not at the cost of others. Such positive discrimination is through reservation, quotas, allocations and allotments. It identifies the intended beneficiaries through well established guidelines of economic and social yardsticks.

Developmental schemes like reservation of seats in education, posts in public sector jobs and in promotion while in service as also in housing in public sector are some ready examples of positive discrimination. They are all well intended but are often seen to fail in meeting the targets.

Welfare schemes for the vulnerable are intended for the poor, aged, sick, women and children across the society. These schemes are segment oriented with lots of need for identification properly of beneficiaries targeted. Schemes covering distribution of food grains, housing for the poor, free healthcare to the extent feasible, insurance for all, construction of toilets to ensure dignity, and free education etc are all welfare measures drawn to establish an egalitarian society. It may bring some scorn or stigma upon the beneficiaries but with all round drive for awareness, it would go away. Much would however depend on plugging the avenues for leakages and corruption. Equally important it is that the welfare schemes are well monitored covering all the beneficiaries. (287 words)

18. **Skill development programmes have succeeded in increasing human resources supply to various sectors. In the context of the statement analyse the linkages between education, skill and employment.** *(Answer in 250 words)*

Ans. Skill development is an ongoing process that has to keep pace with requirements both in terms in quantity as well as quality. The need for quality is becoming paramount given fast paced technological changes all round. Moreover, requirement for new skills is also becoming a pressing issue.

Supply of human resources has increased owing to a number of reasons, chiefly on account of new schemes launched by the Government. Secondly, due to proper alignment of all existing schemes there has been more rationalization ensuring steady supply of human resources. NEP (New Education Policy) 2020 has provided the vision and clarity with its sharp focus on vocational training.

Education is placed at no. 25 of the concurrent list of items in the Constitution. It is not working to any satisfaction. Such divergence doesn't help.

Skill Development has taken off in right earnest with the launch of Prime Minister's *Kaushal Vikas Yojna (2015)* to provide vocational training on large scale and also due to formation of National Skill Development Corporation, a public-private initiative. Youth are benefitting from these twin programmes with ready engagement under enterprises being given support through "Make in India" plans. In this endeavour the efforts of National Skill Mission are also commendable.

While education and skill are being brought together to be in consonance, it is the employability factor that is of the essence. Industry's needs are forever changing; human resource is not confined to technical expertise and never to low skills. Today's need is to be adept with digitization and automation. Soft skills are becoming pivotal.

Industry to be competitive is increasingly resorting to contract management, heavy automation and elimination of low skill jobs. Skill development is getting conditioned by these factors. Regular jobs are on the decline and those available are for specialists.

(297 words)

19. 'The expansion and strengthening of NATO and a stronger US-Europe strategic partnership works well for India.'

What is your opinion about this statement? Give reasons and examples to support your answer.

(Answer in 250 words)

Ans. In the present day "multipolar world", there are many power centres; United States of America; Russia, and China being the major ones. These countries have treaties and influence zones. Russia and China have good understanding, even as the United States of America is trifle unsettled in its arrangements with Europe.

In the current situation, US-Europe relationship is critical. A weakened Europe not getting right support from America opens avenues for Russia. President Trump had been very insistent that Europe pay for its defence.

India has much to gain from a stable and strong Europe having less expenditure on defence considering NATO's presence. Such conditions augur well for India's trade with Europe. Secondly, India's armament needs that have been dependent on Russia are facing uncertainties; it is looking for NATO weapons. With destabilised Europe, NATO supplies would halt; a frightening prospect.

The demand of modern day "realpolitik" dictates that countries be aligned with other powers, that includes at least one superpower. India could not expect to be alone. Aligning with China is out of question, with Russia is not very productive. It stands to reason that United States is cultivated.

Two issues are paramount; one, India needs to protect itself from terrorism which is spreading its tentacles; and two, India's energy supply lines have to be protected. In both of these, India would have to depend on any country with power and willingness. America with NATO set up is well positioned to be of help. The threat of terror from Pakistan, tacitly supported by China and the risk to oil supply routes under the growing menace of China are both daunting. Equally, the environmental crisis, India is particularly vulnerable to it. It needs the technology and wherewithal to combat it. A stable Europe backed by strategic support from America augurs well for India. (295 words)

20. 'Sea is an important component of the cosmos'.

Discuss in the light of the above statement the role of the IMO (International Maritime Organisation) in protecting environment and enhancing maritime safety and security. (Answer in 250 words)

Ans. International Maritime Organisation (IMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for regulating shipping. Its main role is to protect the environment, ensure maritime safety and security. The role of (IMO) is increasing rapidly with increased global trade and rising environmental concerns.

Environmental Protection is done by IMO by following the guidelines drawn by MARPOL Convention for prevention of pollution from ships, whether owing to operational or accidental causes. IMO has laid down standards for the control and management of ships' Ballast Water ensuring that invasive aquatic species do not harm local ecosystems IMO has adopted measures to reduce emission of greenhouse gases from international shipping in line with global efforts to combat climate change. The safety and health of marine environment directly impacts global climate patterns.

IMO has been playing a vital role in the matter of enhancing maritime safety. In the context The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) convention on safety of life at sea that ensures that ships flagged by signatory states adhere and conform to minimum safety standards in construction, equipment and operation is overseen by IMO. Similarly, The International Convention on Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) convention governing standards of training, certification and watch keeping for seafarers is overseen by IMO.

Regarding safety and security IMO has set safety standards following the rules set by International Convention for safe containers.

As for maritime security, IMO ensures following of International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) code which is a comprehensive set of measures to increase the security of ships, port facilities etc, IMO has been at the vanguard to combat pirates and robbers to ensure safe sea routes; international trade depends so much on this.

Emission standards and oil spills are the two burning issues before the IMO. Both of these are vital to environment protection. (313 words)

Solved Paper 2023

General Studies

Paper III

There are twenty questions. All Questions are Compulsory.

Questions 1-10 are 10 marks each and 150 words.

Questions 11-20 are 15 marks each and 250 words.

1. **Faster economic growth requires increased share of the manufacturing sector in GDP, particularly of MSMEs. Comment on the present policies of the Government in this regard.** *(Answer in 150 words)*

Ans. The MSME (Micros, Small and Medium Enterprises) sector's contribution to GDP has been at a stagnant 15%, though they contribute 40% of exports, employ 100 million people and account for 45% of manufacturing output.

The present government policies to give a fillip to MSMEs are:

RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance), with an outlay of Rs.6000 crores will be rolled out in 2023-24 to provide financial and technical support for quality, technology, and market access.

Under Section 115BA, MSMEs are eligible for reduced tax rate of 25% instead of 30%.

The latest classification of MSMEs is based on business turnover, not plant and machinery investments. The distinction between manufacturing-based and service-based MSMEs is gone.

Credit Guarantee Trust Fund for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) offers credit support without collaterals. MSME Samadhaan addresses the issue of delayed payments and MSME Sambandh gives due share in government procurement.

Made in India programme promotes manufacturing and attracts foreign investing.

Example: Recent restrictions on laptop imports to promote laptop manufacturing in India.

(170 words)

2. **What is the status of digitalization in the Indian economy? Examine the problems faced in this regard and suggest improvements.** *(Answer in 150 words)*

Ans. Nearly two-thirds of Indian population uses the internet. Mobile broadband subscribers reached 765 million by 2021 and Generation z spends 8 hours per day, online. India is one of largest digital markets, with 560 million subscribers, next to China.

The e-commerce market may reach 350 billion by 2030 and India would be a big online shopper, with rural mobiles.

Contribution to Gross Value Added (GAV) increased from 5.4% in 2014 to 8.5%. The digitally dependent economy contributed 22 % of India's GDP in 2019.

Digital India programme was launched in 2015. It is easier to pay taxes, get licences and certificates, using digital platform. The e-market place (GeM) has streamlined procurement.

Problems

Only 40 per cent of population has internet subscription showing the digital divide.

Weak Internet connectivity and network speeds are bottlenecks.

Suggestions

Increased broadband service and 5G rollout need investment, which must be provided.

Incubators, accelerators and funding programmes for fintech and startups must take up more digital space. (160 words)

3 **How does e-Technology help farmers in production and marketing of agricultural produce? Explain it.** (Answer in 150 words)

Ans. E-technology makes the farmer produce what he wants and sell where he wants. In the crucial area of production, Precision Farming can be done with GPS-guided tractors and drones which plant seeds and apply fertilizers, reducing input costs. Access to real-time weather data through mobile apps is possible. Weather Forecasting by IMD (Indian Meteorological Department) through digital platforms counters adverse conditions.

Satellite imagery through IoT devices and remote sensing technology enable farmers identify pest infestations early.

The Kisan Suvidha app provides information on crop advisories and market prices.

Farm-to-fork platforms like Ninjacart connect farmers directly with retailers and consumers, reducing intermediaries

In marketing of agricultural produce, farmers can sell their produce on e-commerce platforms like BigBasket and Grofers listing commodities.

Start-ups like AgroStar connect farmers with cold storage providers and transportation services.

The Agmarknet portal offers daily price information on commodities.

The eNAM (National Agriculture Market) platform facilitates online trading of agricultural commodities across India, while APEDA's assists in exports. (160 words)

4. **State the objectives and measures of land reforms in India. Discuss how land ceiling policy on landholding can be considered as an effective reform under economic criteria.** (Answer in 150 words)

Ans. Post-independence, over 20 million tenants were given ownership rights due to land reforms, and nearly 5 million hectares of land were redistributed.

The main objective of land reforms was to eliminate layers of intermediaries (like zamindars, jagirdars, etc.) and bring direct relationship between state and cultivator. for example, the zamindari system was abolished in West Bengal in 1950s.

Security to tenants and rights to actual tiller was another objective. Scattered landholdings were merged for agricultural productivity; for example, Operation Barga in West Bengal. Another aim was to modernize land records; for example, Bhoomi Project in Karnataka.

Among other measures, several states passed acts to abolish zamindari and other intermediary systems, like the Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950. States adopted laws to protect tenant farmers. For example, the Telangana passed the Andhra Pradesh (Telangana Area) Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act. The Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) was undertaken to upgrade land records.

The Land Ceiling Act of 1976 set limits on land ownership, and land was redistributed from large landholders to landless. Ownership of land provided security and increased access to credit. Cooperative farming societies, like in Gujarat, came up. (185 words)

5. **Introduce the concept of Artificial Intelligence (AI). How does AI help clinical diagnosis? Do you perceive any threat to privacy of the individual in the use of AI in healthcare?** (Answer in 150 words)

Ans. The term 'Artificial Intelligence (AI)' invented by John McCarthy in 1956, refers to the ability of machines to perform cognitive tasks like thinking, perceiving, learning, problem-solving and decision making.

How AI Helps Clinical Diagnosis

AI algorithms can analyze medical images (e.g., X-rays, MRIs, CT scans) to detect abnormalities, tumors, and fractures. For example, Google's DeepMind detects eye diseases like diabetic retinopathy from retinal scans.

AI can identify subtle patterns in patient data, like early detection of diseases like diabetes.

AI-powered wearable devices and apps enable continuous health monitoring. Example: Apple Watch's ECG feature can detect irregular heart rhythms

AI can forecast disease outbreaks, to allocate resources effectively, for example it has forecast COVID-19 case surges

Privacy Threats in AI use in Healthcare

Data breaches may occur as large-scale storage and analysis of medical data may invite intrusion. For example, in 2019, in Quest Diagnostics, millions of patient records were compromised.

AI can re-identify individuals from supposedly anonymous health data, compromising privacy.

Wearable health devices may be used for non-medical surveillance purposes. (168 words)

6. **Discuss several ways in which microorganisms can help in meeting the current fuel shortage.** (Answer in 150 words)

Ans. Bacteria can actually produce petroleum. Sounds strange, but it's true. The use of microorganisms to produce alternative fuels is a revolutionary step.

There are several ways in which microorganisms are being used to produce fuel:

Microbial methanogenesis is process by which residual hydrocarbons in depleted oil wells and coal in pits can be turned into methane recovering a lot of fuel.

Microbial fuel cells (MFCs) can convert chemical energy into electrical energy as bacteria can oxidize organic/inorganic matter, generating electricity.

Biomethanation changes organic matter under anaerobic conditions to biogas.

Third generation biofuels like microalgae can create butanol.

The advantage of bioprocessing process is that it can remove sulfur, nitrogen and ash, making for quality petroleum, which is less expensive.

Biomass can lead to hydrogen gas, which is clean.

The government has brought in Gobardhan scheme, Ji-Van scheme 20% ethanol blending and National Biofuel Policy 2019 to promote fuel generation using microorganisms. **(150 words)**

7. **Dam failures are always catastrophic, especially on the downstream side, resulting in a colossal loss of life and property. Analyze the various causes of dam failures. Give two examples of large dam failures.** *(Answer in 150 words)*

Ans. The first dam failure was recorded in 1917 when the Tigris Dam in Madhya Pradesh collapsed due to overtopping.

Of the total large dams, 293 dams are more than 100 years old and 1,041 dams are more than 50 years old.

Causes

The Koyna dam failure (1967) took place because a natural disaster, an earthquake shook the structure.

The Karam dam in Madhya Pradesh collapsed in 2022, because of flaws in structure and design.

The Pulichintala project in Andhra Pradesh failed in 2021 as ageing structure took toll.

Weak or unstable soils foundation, overtopping where water rises above crest of dam) or inadequate release during high flow can also create dam disasters.

The Machhu dam failure in Morbi district, Gujarat, which occurred in 1979, took place as excessive rainfall and sudden release of water caused flooding, claiming 2000 lives.

The Annamayya reservoir failure, (2021) in Andhra Pradesh, resulted in the death of at least 20 people. **(159 words)**

8. **What is oil pollution? What are its impacts on the marine ecosystem? In what way is oil pollution particularly harmful for a country like India?** *(Answer in 150 words)*

Ans. Oil pollution refers to the release of petroleum-based substances, arising from tanker accidents, oil drilling and industrial discharge into aquatic ecosystems like oceans, seas, rivers, and coastal areas.

Toxic oil can poison and kill marine organisms like fish, seabirds, and sea turtles due to ingestion. The Gulf of Mexico's dead zone is partially attributed to oil pollution.

Disruption of food chain affects primary producers (phytoplankton) which can impact zooplankton, eaten by marine species.

Oil coats smother mangroves, salt marshes, and coral reefs. Fishing and tourism face severe economic crunch. Example, the deepwater horizon oil spill in Gulf of Mexico.

India has a long coastline and busy shipping lanes, increasing the risk of oil spills from maritime transport accidents. Example, the 2010 collision between two ships off the Mumbai coast resulted in an oil spill that affected marine life and fishing communities.

Oil-affected beaches in Goa and Kerala have seen a decline in tourist arrivals.

The heavy traffic in Arabian Sea poses a threat to India's western coastline. (167 words)

9. **Winning of Hearts and Minds' in terrorism-affected areas is an essential step in restoring the trust of the population. Discuss the measures adopted by the Government in this respect as part of the conflict resolution in Jammu and Kashmir. (Answer in 150 words)**

Ans. Winning of Hearts and Minds (WHAM) is a process to bring peace in Kashmir, so that insurgency is beaten back. Though complex, many steps have been taken in right direction.

The abrogation of Article 370 on 2019 was a step to undo the historical wrong, as Kashmir got legally merged with the Indian Union.

Kashmir also moved towards elections, after delimitation, pushing back complaints of political alienation.

Project Sadhbhavana was undertaken by the Indian army to make the youth realize dreams and shed continuous militancy.

Project Himayat is a step for capacity building and employment of youth. Project Umeed is for empowerment of women.

Connecting places, the Jawahar Tunnel and Chenab Bridge have reduced travel time.

Institutions like AIIMS, IIT and IIM have been part of infrastructure planning.

The effect of WHAM can be seen in the fact that a Kashmiri footballer, Majid Khan left LeT after his mother's pleas and the Indian army pressed no charges against him. (158 words)

10. **The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) by our adversaries across the borders to ferry arms/ammunitions, drugs, etc., is a serious threat to the internal security. Comment on the measures being taken to tackle this threat. (Answer in 150 words)**

Ans. Drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) are used by adversary state and non-state actors, increasingly, to threaten internal security of India. Drones were used to drop explosives on Jammu's Air Force Station and in Poonch area, weapons and cash were air-dropped for militants to carry out attack. They are also used to ferry arms and drugs across LOC and international borders. To counter drone threat, the government is taking several measures:

DRDO's Drone Detect, Deter and Destroy (D4S) is the first indigenous anti-drone system which protects critical assets. It was used on August 15, 2022 at Red Fort function.

The new Counter unmanned aircraft systems (C-UAS) technology goes for soft kill (blocking communication lines) and hard kills (bringing down drone). DURGA (Directionally Unrestricted Ray-Gun Array) is a 100KW lightweight system.

iCET – India –US is a collaboration to share technical expertise.

In Punjab's border areas, an anti-rogue drone SOP system is being followed.

Under international measures, MHA has established Anti Rogue Drone Technology Committee under DG, BSF which evaluates technology and certifies effectiveness. (178 words)

- 11. Most of the unemployment in India is structural in nature. Examine the methodology adopted to compute unemployment in the country and suggest improvements.**

(Answer in 250 words)

Ans. It is said that when computerization in banks took place in early stages, many lacked the skill to operate computers. This is known as structural unemployment. It happens when individuals are left with no jobs because they lack skills valued by the labour market, either because demand has shifted from the skills possessed by them, or because they never learned new skills.

A mismatch between the skills and qualifications of the workforce and the available job opportunities occurs. The reasons can be changes in technology, shifts in industries, or changes in the geographical location. For example, if a population in a high unemployment region is not willing to relocate to where jobs are abundant, high unemployment will continue.

Methodology to Compute Unemployment

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), provides quarterly data for urban areas and annual data for rural areas.

Held decennially, the Census provides data related to workforce participation and unemployment, although it is not as frequent or detailed as specialized surveys.

While not exhaustive, data from government employment exchanges provide insights into unemployment, especially urban unemployment.

There are certain drawbacks in these methodologies, like informal sector bias, subjectivity in reporting and ignoring discouraged workers.

Suggestions

There should be more frequent surveys of unemployment; giving up-to-date information.

For targeted policies, regional and sector surveys must be held

Digital surveys and mobile applications can be used to yield lot of information for rapidly solving the problem. **(250 words)**

- 12. Distinguish between 'care economy' and 'monetized economy'. How can care economy be brought into monetized economy through women empowerment?**

(Answer in 250 words)

Ans. Care Economy includes invisible unpaid or underpaid activities such as taking care of children, elderly, household work etc. On the other hand, a monetised economy includes exchange of goods and services at market determined rates.

According to an ILO study, women in India spend 297 minutes a day on unpaid care work, which is more than 9 times that of men.

Difference

The Care Economy represents unpaid and informal caregiving work, like that done by women.

The Monetized Economy embodies the structured, formal economy where economic activities are quantified in monetary terms.

Care Economy combines both unpaid caregivers and some paid professionals like nurses.

Monetized Economy is dominated by formal employment sectors, offering monetary compensation.

Care Economy often goes unaccounted in GDP.

Monetized Economy directly contributes and is recorded in GDP.

How women empowerment can integrate Care Economy into Monetized Economy:

Skill development programs emphasizing healthcare, childcare, and elderly care can upgrade women's skills. The *Skill India initiative*, for instance, offers training in healthcare professions.

Encouraging women to commence businesses in daycare centers or healthcare services can be beneficial. India's *Nari Shakti* grants, for instance, promote women's entrepreneurship.

Income generation through SHGs or Self Help Groups, like the *Kudumbashree Programme* in Kerala, can stimulate income-generating activities.

Flexible work can aid women in harmonizing caregiving with formal employment. Example: Companies offering work-from-home opportunities

Equal pay and recognition for caregiving roles is essential, like Equal Remuneration Act in India.

Government-backed affordable childcare services, akin to Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) can ease responsibilities.

Karnataka's *Koosina Mane* scheme envisages childcare for women enrolled under MGNREGA

(267 words)

13. **Explain the changes in cropping pattern in India in the context of changes in consumption pattern and marketing conditions.** (Answer in 250 words)

Ans. Farmers are diversifying crop choices to align with the changing landscape of consumption and marketing in India.

Here are some examples of the shift in cropping patterns, owing to consumer preferences:

As people become more health-conscious, crops like quinoa and chia seeds are being cultivated in regions like Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh.

The international food trend has paved the way for the cultivation of herbs and spices like basil and oregano in places like Kerala and Himachal Pradesh.

Diets like keto and paleo have popularized low-carb alternatives, driving the cultivation of crops like cauliflower in Punjab and Haryana .

As products are easily transported, cherry tomatoes grown in north are also now being planted in Telangana.

High disposable incomes means exotic varieties like avocados and kiwis are grown in Himachal Pradesh.

Marketing conditions are also changing crop patterns as seen in the below examples:

Export demand is reshaping India's agricultural landscape, as globalization is seen, with grapes from Maharashtra and bananas from Gujarat being shipped to European countries.

National retail chains like Reliance Fresh or Big Bazaar have procurement deals with farmers.

Farmers in Punjab and Haryana are switching to vegetables like bell peppers for steady income.

Brands like PepsiCo offer contracts to farmers for specific potato varieties used in chips, providing new market for farmers in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

The ketchup industry near Pune established new tomato and chilli led cropping pattern in western Maharashtra.

Higher MSP and subsidies have led to production of rice, wheat and sugarcane in areas though water is not there. (257 words)

14. **What are the direct and indirect subsidies provided to farm sector in India? Discuss the issues raised by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in relation to agricultural subsidies.** (Answer in 250 words)

Ans. In India, farm subsidies are necessary to bolster small and marginal farmers' income, create food security, stabilize price and incentivize agricultural production.

Direct subsidies

Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) like the PM-KISAN scheme provides financial support of Rs. 6,000 per year, reaching farmers' bank accounts.

Input subsidies, like on fertilizers, such as under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme, make key inputs like Urea and DAP affordable. A 50 kg bag of urea costs Rs. 268 (approx.), only.

Credit Subsidies, like Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme offer loans at lower rates while Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) offers subsidized crop insurance.

Indirect Subsidies

Irrigation subsidies like Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Program (AIBP) can cover up to 60% of the total cost.

Power subsidies in states, like Punjab and Haryana, offer free or subsidized electricity for tube wells and irrigation pumps.

Transport subsidies, like *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana* (RKVY) aid transporting agricultural produce to markets., while Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) subsidy enhances storage facilities.

Seed subsidy distributes certified cereal crop seeds at 50% cost and 60% for pulses, fodder and green manure crops.

Issues raised by WTO

According to WTO norms, subsidies in the Amber Box, like for fertilizers, should go. But, India feels they are critical for enhancing crop yields.

India's subsidies for agricultural exports, such as sugar, are criticised by Brazil and Australia. MSP given to wheat and rice farmers is disliked as also FCI's buying large quantities of wheat and rice, for food security.

Direct income support, like Universal Basic Income for farmers, is the solution. (261 words)

15. **The adoption of electric vehicles is rapidly growing worldwide. How do electric vehicles contribute to reducing carbon emissions and what are the key benefits they offer compared to traditional combustion engine vehicles?** (Answer in 250 words)

Ans. The adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) is witnessing an exponential growth, with sales in India hitting record 965868 units in first 8 months of 2023, itself.

How electric vehicles reduce carbon emissions

Zero tailpipe emissions are produced in contrast to nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and particulate matter.

Converting more than 77% of electrical energy from the grid to power at the wheels, in contrast, to internal combustion engines (ICE) which manages only 12-30%, the EVs doesn't waste fuel.

If charged via renewable resources, EVs can operate with nearly zero emissions.

A regenerative braking system captures kinetic energy during braking to recharge the battery, reducing energy waste.

Lightweight material like carbon fiber-reinforced polymer reduces car's weight, for energy efficiency. This can be noticed in BMW's i3 electric vehicle.

Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) system, like in Nissan Leaf, allows feedback of energy into grid during high demand. As a result, additional fossil fuel demand gets cut.

Benefits

Total cost of ownership for an electric vehicle is significantly lower than for an ICE vehicle. With fewer moving parts and no need for oil changes, the long-term savings are substantial. Electric cars are inherently safer because they don't carry combustible fuel nor do they have fuel tank.

FAME II scheme provides various tax benefits and subsidies for electric vehicles. For example, GST on electric vehicles has been reduced to 5% from 12%, now.

Electric vehicles meet stringent emission norms like Bharat Stage VI with a built-in advantage, while ICE vehicles require complex and expensive modifications. (253 words)

16. **What is the main task of India's third moon mission which could not be achieved in its earlier mission? List the countries that have achieved this task. Introduce the subsystems in the spacecraft launched and explain the role of the Virtual Launch Control Centre' at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre which contributed to the successful launch from Sriharikota.** (Answer in 250 words)

Ans. India has become the fourth country to successfully demonstrate soft moon landing and first country to land near the lunar South Pole.

Unlike the Chandrayaan-1, which was only an orbiter, and Chandrayaan-2, which failed in its soft-landing attempt due to a last-minute glitch, Chandrayaan-3 mission achieved a seamless soft landing.

Chandrayaan-1 discovered water molecules on the Moon but couldn't analyse samples, a limitation the third mission aims to overcome.

Chandrayaan-2 had an onboard rover named 'Pragyan' intended for study but it couldn't be utilized due to failed landing. But, now the rover has also landed.

Other countries that have achieved moon missions are USSR (Russia) with their LUNA mission, USA under the Apollo and Artemis mission and China with their Change mission.

Subsystems

1. The orbiter, a spacecraft orbits the Moon and performs remote sensing operations, capturing images and data from lunar surface.
2. The lander takes scientific instruments and equipment to the lunar surface for in-situ studies. It consists of lander Vikram and rover Pragyan.
3. The rover is a mobile vehicle which conducts experiments and collects data.
4. Chandrayaan 3 has communication systems to relay data to mission control on Earth.
5. Navigation and Guidance Systems ensure control trajectory and landing.
6. Solar power is there to make the Rover functional for 1 lunar day (14 earth days).

The Virtual Launch Control Centre (VLCC) at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) is a state-of-the-art facility that employs artificial intelligence and machine learning to ensure the success of India's space missions.

Real-time telemetry keeps everything from propulsion to guidance smooth. In anomaly or unexpected conditions, the Virtual Centre provides crucial data for quick decisions. Sophisticated algorithms can trigger automated safety protocols. Machine Learning algorithms can predict potential issues and offer solutions. A virtual environment allows experts from various fields to contribute their expertise. (297 words)

17. **Comment on the National Wetland Conservation Programme initiated by the Government of India and name a few India's wetlands of international importance included in the Ramsar Sites.** (Answer in 250 words)

Ans. The National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) has played a pivotal role in maintaining ecological balance by providing habitats for numerous species, supporting biodiversity, and regulating water regimes. .

Role

The program undertakes a systematic identification and classification survey of wetlands across India. For instance, Chilika Lake in Odisha was identified as a Ramsar site owing to its ecological importance.

The Central and state governments jointly fund conservation activities, like rejuvenation of Wular Lake in Jammu and Kashmir.

Fishermen around Pulicat Lake have been trained in sustainable fishing techniques.

Research grants are given for studies on wetland ecology, like the unique flora and fauna study of Keoladeo National Park

Biodiversity Conservation is done by saving diverse life forms like at Asan Conservation Reserve in Uttarakhand .

Technology like satellite imagery is used for monitoring wetlands. For example, the health of Vembanad Kol Wetland in Kerala is periodically assessed using remote sensing data.

However, the NWCP programme does not cover all wetlands of country. Rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns have disrupted migratory bird routes in Chilika Lake. Overfishing in Loktak Lake is depleting fish stock. Bellandur lake in Karnataka has been reduced to a third of its original size due to unauthorized construction. Motorized boats in Dal Lake are threatening ecology.

Important Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites):

1. Chilika Lake, Odisha: Largest coastal lagoon in India.
2. Sundarbans: The world's largest mangrove forest
3. Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan: a haven for birds, including Siberian cranes.
4. Kolleru Lake, Andhra Pradesh: rich diversity of avian fauna.
5. Loktak Lake, Manipur: famous for phumdis (floating islands) and Keibul Lamjao, the world's only floating national park.

(266 words)

18. **The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has predicted a global sea level rise of about one metre by AD 2100. What would be its impact in India and the other countries in the Indian Ocean region?** *(Answer in 250 words)*

Ans Shifting snowlines and shorelines are a big concern for India and other neighbouring countries. As per IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, global mean sea level can rise by about one metre by AD 2100.

Impact on India

Major cities like Mumbai and Chennai, which have extensive coastlines, are already experiencing increased coastal erosion. The Marina Beach may suffer as tourism and local ecology will take a hit.

The Sundarbans Delta and lowland rice system of Kerala etc; , crucial for rice cultivation and biodiversity, are at risk of becoming saline. This would affect the livelihood of thousands of farmers.

Low-lying areas in states like West Bengal and Kerala may witness large-scale human migration due to consistent flooding and loss of habitable land.

Sea levels rise and changes in water temperatures could result in shifts in marine ecosystems in Kerala and Goa.

Important infrastructural projects like Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai, which handles a significant portion of India's cargo, could face operational challenges.

Impact on countries in Indian Ocean region

The Maldives, already the lowest-lying country in the world, with an average elevation of about 1.5 metres above sea level could become uninhabitable or even completely disappear under the sea.

Much of Bangladesh's land area is less than 5 metres above sea level, and even a modest rise in level could displace millions of people.

In Sri Lanka, coastal cities like Galle, popular for historical landmarks and beaches, could lose out on tourism while Thailand's low-lying Phuket could suffer tsunamis. Indonesia's critical maritime trade routes, may face economic disruptions.

(256 words)

19. **What are the internal securities challenges being faced by India? Give out the role of Central Intelligence and Investigative Agencies tasked to counter such threats.**

(Answer in 250 words)

Ans. The NIA registered more than 72 cases in 2022 that shows growing issue of internal security.

Internal Security Challenges

Terrorism: The 11/26 Mumbai attacks in 2008, orchestrated by the Pakistan-based group Lashkar-e-Taiba, resulted in 166 deaths and severe property damage. It brought forth the need for a fortified counter-terrorism strategy.

Naxalism: The Naxalite insurgency, most rampant in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha, poses a significant challenge. In Dantewada, ambush (2010) killing of 76 CRPF personnel took place.

Cyber Crime: The WannaCry ransomware attack in 2017 was a global event but also affected multiple states in India.

Ethnic Tensions: Ethnic conflict in Assam, particularly between Bodos and Bengali-speaking Muslims, has resulted in periods of violence and mass displacement.

Border Issues: Infiltration across Line of Control in J&K and Indo-Bangladesh border are continuous concerns. The 2016 Uri attack, for example, was executed by militants

Role of Central Intelligence and Investigative Agencies:

1. Intelligence Bureau (IB) collects and analyzes intelligence related to internal security threats. It coordinates with state police and other agencies.

Example: IB played a crucial role in uncovering 2001 Parliament attack plot.

2. Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) focuses on external intelligence but often collaborates with IB for counter-terrorism efforts.

Example: RAW's tracks and neutralizes threats across the border.

3. National Investigation Agency (NIA) is specialized agency for investigating and prosecuting terrorism-related cases, both national and international.

Example: NIA's investigation into the Pathankot airbase attack.

4. National Cyber Security Agency addresses cyber threats and vulnerabilities. It collaborates to protect critical digital infrastructure.

Example: Assisting in the response to the 2020 power grid cyberattack.

CBI's role in the investigation of 1993 Bombay bombings and National Security Guard (NSG) deployment during 2008 Mumbai attacks is well-known. Besides, there is collaboration with international intelligence agencies like CIA and MI6 to gather information on global threats.

(300 words)

20. **Give out the major sources of terror funding in India and the efforts being made to curtail these sources. In the light of this, also discuss the aim and objective of the 'No Money for Terror (NMFT)' Conference recently held at New Delhi in November 2022.**

(Answer in 250 words)

Ans. To strangle the financial lifelines of terrorist organizations, terror funding must be uprooted.

Major Sources of Terror Funding

Hawala transactions are a favourite as they provide a quick and secretive method for transferring money. Hawala networks funded the 1993 Bombay bombings.

Revenue from drug trafficking is used by groups like Taliban. Golden Crescent processes opium into heroin, smuggling it into Punjab.

Operations by the NIA have uncovered that counterfeit notes printed in foreign countries are pumped into India to fund terrorist activities.

Extremist groups use ransomware attacks and identity theft, to generate funds. The Uri attack in 2016 also revealed illegal digital transactions.

Foreign Funding can substantially bolster extremist activities.. An example is the alleged involvement of Pakistan's ISI in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

Efforts to Curtail

India has enacted Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, empowering authorities to prosecute and confiscate assets of terror financiers. Institutions such as the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), the NIA and the ED monitor and act against terror funding.

Intelligence sharing mechanism with other countries through FATF, the SAARC Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk (STOMD), the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS) of SCO is there.

NGOs, trusts, companies etc; must get government registration and disclose fund sources and use.

The 'No Money for Terror (NMFT)' Conference, held its third meet , with 78 countries fostering global collaboration to combat terror finding. The FATF guidelines and European Union's 4th Anti-Money Laundering Directive were hailed. Training programs like U.S. Department of Treasury's counter-terrorism financing courses were proposed. Tech Against Terrorism initiative involving tech companies to fight online extremist content was lauded. **(279 words)**

Solved Paper 2023

General Studies

Paper IV

There are twelve questions. All Questions are Compulsory.

Questions 1-6 are 10 marks each and 150 words.

Questions 7-12 are 20 marks each and 250 words.

SECTION A

- 1. (a) What do you understand by 'moral integrity' and 'professional efficiency' in the context of corporate governance in India? Illustrate with suitable examples. 10**

(Answer in 150 Words)

Ans. Corporate governance stands for norms-based working of business enterprises. The Companies Act prescribes the tenets of corporate governance. Corporate governance envisages that enterprises have to not only maximize shareholder value but also promote the interests of all stakeholders. These objectives presuppose that corporate managers need to be both efficient and ethical.

Professional efficiency is thorough knowledge and skill needed for working efficiently in one's occupation. Professional efficiency is not mere nodding acquaintance or general knowledge in an area. It is thorough grounding, state-of-the-art expert knowledge. For example, executives working in frontier technology areas like artificial intelligence or robotics would need such knowledge. Another example would be of those working on bullet train projects or building dams in earth-quake prone zones.

Moral integrity has two aspects: one is financial honesty and the other is intellectual honesty. The former implies that managers will desist from financial wrongdoing and will always protect their company's financial interests. Intellectual honesty ensures that managers will exercise due diligence based on their professional knowledge in furthering their company's interests. **(173 words)**

- (b) 'International aid' is an accepted form of helping resource-challenged nations. Comment on 'ethics of contemporary international aid'. Support your answer with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 Words) 10**

Ans. International aid to resource-challenged or poor nations has many moral dimensions linked to history and recent practice. According to some writers, such aid is not charity to poor nations but their entitlement. Many poor nations were former colonies of rich nations. They

extracted economic surpluses from poor nations through plunder, taxation, trade, investment and loaning.

In modern times, developed nations agreed to give 1% of their GDP as aid to poor nations. They adopted poverty eradication by 2030 as one of the sustainable development goals. International institutions identified forty-six nations as least developed (LDCs).

Besides being poor, LDCs are economically unstable and have low HDI. LDCs are helped with generous export incentives and investment flows. They get priority treatment during crises like Covid 19 and for dealing with climate change,

As part of climate justice, developing nations have been urging rich nations to bear the bulk of the cost for mitigating damage which climate change caused. For, it was the rich nations which contributed the maximum to carbon build-up and ecological damage.

Ideally, aid should be altruistic, and not be linked to a nation's diplomatic or international power games. World Food Programme is altruistic, but Road and Belt Initiative represent China's global power push. (204 words)

- 2.(a) "Corruption is the manifestation of the failure of core values in the society." In your opinion, what measures can be adopted to uplift the core values in the society? 10**
(Answer in 150 Words)

Ans. Corruption is defined as misuse of public office for private gain. Most acts of corruption are criminal and unethical. Morality reflects core social values.

Two questions arise here. First, a society's core values might have lost savour and no longer act as a moral compass. Secondly, people might have abandoned core social values. Action on both fronts is necessary for tackling corruption.

Normally, a society will follow its core values unless it slides into moral decay. Unfortunately, in modern societies, losses of religious faith, erosion of traditional values and increasing emphasis on financial success have destroyed old virtues. Values like honesty, integrity, work ethic, due diligence, sense of duty and patriotism have to be revived and strengthened. Social trends reflected in consumerism, get-rich-quick mania, new forms of addiction like drug-taking, lax living styles, propensity to immediate desire gratification, and reliance on crude diversions and entertainment—all these need to be discouraged. Cultivation of interest in art, culture and literature will help in refining sensibilities. The incentive structure of a society has to promote its core values.

Parents and teachers have to implant these values in children and students so as to spread these virtues in society. (192 words)

- (b) In the context of work environment, differentiate between 'coercion' and 'undue influence' with suitable examples.** (Answer in 150 Words) 10

Coercion means that one person uses force or threat of force to compel another to do or desist from doing something. It does not usually imply resort to actual physical force but includes arm-twisting, pressure and duress.

For example, a builder is involved in a minor traffic accident. He is not at fault. But the police inspector threatens to charge the builder under a serious offence unless he pays a bribe.

Undue influence in work situations signifies that a person in authority takes advantage of another who works under him. The subordinate functionary is in an unequal position, and vulnerable to pressure from the functionary above him. Pressure or excessive persuasion from a senior functionary will deprive the subordinate of his autonomous decision-making abilities. In government, a functionary has to act in his best judgement while taking a decision or analysing a matter on file. Undue influence deprives him of this right. He is forced to flout public interest and official norms.

A senior executive, who exerts pressure on his subordinate, to make him tweak tender evaluation to favour a particular contractor, exercises undue influence. (186 words)

3. **Given below are three quotations of great thinkers. What do each of these quotations convey to you in the present context?**

- (a) **“The simplest acts of kindness are far more more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer.” – Mahatma Gandhi** (Answer in 150 Words) 10

Ans. The word ‘powerful’ in this context means ‘effective’, ‘fruitful’, ‘productive’ and ‘leading to a desirable outcome’. Gandhi suggests that a large group silently praying reverently is less conducive to fruitful outcome than a single individual or a small group of them performing acts of kindness,

What is Gandhi hinting at? He is pointing to the fact that for achieving any goal, people need to act constructively. Passively praying for a desired outcome will not produce it. It is not uncommon for people to seek boons from gods, and then go into fervent prayer mode imploring gods or perform rituals to propitiate them. Gandhi is urging people to rely on their own inherent powers and act constructively.

Two other aspects of Gandhi’s point need attention. Acts of kindness refer to his concern for the poor and the helpless. True religious feeling consists in actively working for ameliorating their lot than in performing ceremonies and rituals. Further, the poor can be helped by active service and not by pious or empty prayers. However, Gandhi valued prayer as a means of religious discipline and self-purification. (182 words)

- (b) **“To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves, and the nation moves.” – Jawaharlal Nehru** (Answer in 150 Words) 10

Ans. This quotation emphasises the role that women play in promoting social enlightenment. Obviously, woman as a mother exercises the earliest and the most formative influence on the child. The influence of parents precedes that of schools, teachers and other social agencies. It is the mother and father, who decisively and quite early on, shape the mind of the child. The teachings of mothers leave a lasting imprint on their children. They carry such value sets throughout their life. The example of Jijabai shaping the future career of Shivaji is well-known.

If children imbibe appropriate moral values and mindset, they will radiate later widely in society at large. Children grow into larger social units such as family, villages and in fact the whole nation.

Two more considerations are relevant. ‘Awaken’ means to imbue with progressive, modern and scientific ideas. In earlier times, women were illiterate, ignorant, and superstitious. They

did not enjoy the same status as men, and had limited social roles. Here Nehru has in mind the need for women's emancipation and gender equity. His exhortation offers the rationale for gender equality. (182 words)

- (c) **“Do not hate anybody, because that hatred that comes out from you must, in the long run, come back to you. If you love, that love will come back to you to completing the cycle.”**
– Swami Vivekananda (Answer in 150 Words) 10

Ans. Swami Vivekananda, in this observation, is pointing out that both hatred and love produce reciprocal and equitable relations. Two mechanisms operate in the two emotions and behaviours.

If we show hatred towards others, it begets hatred in them towards us. Likewise, if we act tenderly towards others, they normally reciprocate with similar feelings towards us. As for hatred, if a person is powerful, the individuals towards whom he spews venom will remain silent for the time being. They will bide their time waiting for his star to decline. They will return his hatred in full measure after his fall, thus closing the circle of mutual hatred. Correspondingly, friendly or affectionate behaviour will create circuits of joyful harmony. This is the Swamiji message: spread love and brotherhood, not hatred.

If a person behaves continually in a hateful manner, obnoxiousness will get embedded in his personality. On the other hand, if one is habitually kind, amiableness will become part of his personality. Swamiji's message is a recipe for individual wellbeing and social harmony .

(172 words)

- 4.(a) What really matters for success, character, happiness, and life-long achievements is a definite set of emotional skills—your EQ—not just purely cognitive abilities that are measured by IQ tests.” Do you agree with this view? Give reasons in support of your answer.** (Answer in 150 Words) 10

Ans. Cognitive or intellectual abilities comprise verbal, logical and mathematical skills indispensable for academic learning. Intelligence quotient is a summary measure of cognitive skills. Emotional intelligence governs one's interpersonal and social behaviour. Both IQ and EQ are needed for success in one's life and profession.

Emotional intelligence consists of abilities such as being able to motivate oneself, to persist in the face of impediments, to control oneself and delay gratification, to regulate one's moods, to empathise and hope, and to prevent distress from swamping one's thinking. Without these qualities, even intellectually talented people will not succeed. EQ ensures the flowering of their potential.

Individuals are embedded in relationships in family, social circle, and in office. EQ promotes harmonious interpersonal relations which happiness presupposes. One's ability to gauge the moods, feelings and thoughts of others is essential for working effectively as a team member in an organisation. EQ prevents disharmony within the family and discord with colleagues. Character connotes the moral aspects of an individual. Emotional intelligence includes empathy and factoring in one's behaviour the emotional needs of others. In this way, emotional intelligence is also other-regarding and enhances one's character. (188 words)

(b) Differentiate 'moral intuition' from 'moral reasoning' with suitable examples. 10
(Answer in 150 Words)

Ans. Moral judgements may follow two routes. First, moral agents may rely on their intuition, which is an inherent, innate, intuitive sense of right and wrong or of moral appropriateness. Such a judgement does not rely on cognitive or logical processes of inferential reasoning. Nor does it invoke any moral criterion or standard or belief. Some intuitionists postulate a hidden human moral faculty, and regard moral intuitions as indubitable.

Moral reasoning unlike intuitions relies on cognitive processes, conscious thinking, analysis of facts, formulation of moral issues, and application of moral criteria. Utilitarians use criterion of maximisation of utility to decide on the best solution to a moral problem. Followers of Kant analyse moral problems and decide between alternative courses of actions using the criterion of moral agent's duty or obligation. Both schools reject the notion of moral intuition. Rajan's young brother and his wife die in an accident leaving two orphan kids. Rajan decides immediately and without premeditation to adopt the children. His wife initially questions the decision, but then changes her mind from a sense of family duty. Rajan acted unconsciously on moral intuition; his wife relied on moral reasoning. **(190 words)**

5. (a) Is conscience a more reliable guide when compared to laws, rules and regulations in the context of ethical decision-making? Discuss. (Answer in 150 Words) 10

Ans. Laws are enacted by legislature. Executive frames rules, with legislative approval, for smoothly implementing laws. The regulatory agencies concerned prescribe regulations for the respective spheres they regulate. Laws, rules and regulations are made with public participation and widely publicized.

Conscience cannot be considered a more reliable guide to ethical decision-making than laws, rules and regulations. Unlike them, it is subjective and not objective. Joseph Butler regards conscience as a God-given ability in men and as their ultimate natural moral guide. Conscience works intuitively, and yet its judgments are considered absolutely valid. It is non-empirical, mysterious and almost an occult mental quality. Its judgments can be misinformed and unconsciously self-serving. But it is seen by the concerned moral agent as self-validating and self-certifying. However, a counterview is possible that truly moral men of goodwill will never use conscience as an alibi or excuse for wrong doing.

Ultimately, as ethical judgments of conscience are not based on logical arguments and factual evidence, moral differences among men become irreconcilable leading to moral anarchy. Hence laws, rules and logic being logical and evidence-based are preferable to proclamations of conscience. **(187words)**

(b) 'Probity is essential for an effective system of governance and socio-economic development.' Discuss (Answer in 150 Words) 10

Ans. Probity signifies adherence to the highest principles and moral norms and complete rectitude. It stands for absolute honesty—impeccable and unimpeachable. Probity in a public servant means that he is incorruptible and abides by the highest ethical ideals. He is even above suspicion like the proverbial Caesar's wife. Naturally, it is an eminently desirable quality in a public servant.

Probity is obviously essential for good governance and socio-economic development. Efficiency and ethics inter alia are two core elements of good governance. Ethical governance presupposes public service marked by probity. Efficiency in government depends on honest civil services. Venal bureaucracy and efficient governance cannot go together.

Probity is a functional necessity for socio-economic development. Government machinery has a major role in promoting and fostering entrepreneurial ventures nurturing economic growth, and in increasing ease of doing business. Honesty and fair play are essential for smooth conduct of business. Quality of life in a society also depends on the honesty, industry and diligence of its members. **(163 words)**

6.(a) What were the major teachings of Guru Nanak? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world? *(Answer in 150 Words)* 10

Ans. Nanak preached that the route to salvation lies in disciplined meditation on God's name. He regarded salvation as escape from the transmigratory cycle of birth-death-rebirth and as mystical union with divine spirit. He urged the devout to spend time in 'nam smaran' or in always chanting God's name. He had mystical beliefs; he rejected formalism and ritualism in religion. He rejected distinctions based on caste, creed and social hierarchy. He was liberal in his views and ensured equal participation of women in religious activities.

Besides moral earnestness and simplicity, Nanak's teachings are marked by syncretism, liberalism, tolerance and catholicity. These are of great contemporary relevance. So are his emphasis on tolerance and amity between religions. His emphasis on humility, purity, simplicity and gender equality are also relevant in the modern consumerist world. By far the most important of his teachings to contemporary period is the service orientation to religion he gave, and which the 'langar' tradition of Gurudwaras exemplifies. **(158 words)**

(b) Explain the term social capital. How does it enhance good governance? 10
(Answer in 150 Words)

Ans. The term social capital became popular in social science theory in late 1980s. Social capital refers to features of social organization such as norms, trust between people, and networks (embodying social relations) that can improve the efficiency of society. It refers to the existence of informal rules and norms among a social group that promotes social cooperation. Examples of such norms are telling truth, honouring one's obligations, and reciprocity in behaviour. It signifies concern for associates in a group, willingness to abide by rules, and readiness to punish those who don't. Some norms may be dysfunctional and need to be discarded.

Social capital promotes mutual trust among economic agents, and reduces transaction costs. It enhances transparency and fair dealing, and reduces asymmetry of information among people. It acts as a social lubricant. It is a social counterpart of efficient, ethical, inclusive, transparent and participatory government. Governance seeks to associate civil society and markets in government as part of networking and forging partnerships and sharing values and goals. Social networks are used in delivering services to people and implementing public-oriented programmes. In this manner, the structures, values and ideas associated with social capital are vital for governance. **(196 words)**

SECTION B

7. You are working as an executive in a nationalised bank for several years. One day one of your close colleagues tells you that her father is suffering from heart disease and needs surgery immediately to survive. She also tells you that she has no insurance and the operation will cost about Rs. 10 lakh. You are also aware of the fact that her husband is no more and that she is from a lower middle class family. You are empathetic about her situation. However, apart from expressing your sympathy, you do not have the resources to fund her.

A few weeks later, you ask her about the well-being of her father and she informs you about his successful surgery and that he is recovering. She then confides in you that the bank manager was kind enough to facilitate the release of Rs. 10 lakh from a dormant account of someone to pay for the operation with a promise that it should be confidential and be repaid at the earliest. She has already started paying it back and will continue to do so until it is all returned.

(a) What are the ethical issues involved ?

(b) Evaluate the behaviour of the bank manager from an ethical point of view.

(c) How would you react to the situation ? *(Answer in 250 words)* 20

Ans. (a) The following issues are involved in the case.

- (i) How to assist one's lady colleague, who is in financially strained circumstances and who is facing a medical emergency because of her father's heart disease?
- (ii) Can the bank manager violate rules and put a bank customer's money at risk to assist a bank employee, no matter however genuine or desperate her predicament may be?
- (iii) Should one try to assist the lady colleague or leave her, and hope that she will cope with the emergency on her own?
- (iv) Is there an ethical dilemma facing the bank manager or the lady's colleague?

(b) The bank manager's action is in a way praiseworthy. He proactively helped the lady employee in distress. He did show not only lip sympathy but also arranged the money she desperately needed.

However, it is difficult to ethically support the bank manager's action. Although his end was good, the means he used are unacceptable. Basically, he grossly violated the rules which govern the operation of bank customer's money. It cannot be used without the customer's express consent. Even if an account is dormant for long, there are rules for its operation. The customer may decide to operate his account at any moment. Then the bank manager would face trouble. The bank manager misappropriated and misused the customer's money of which he is the custodian. He grossly violated his fiduciary duty.

(c) The lady's colleagues should try to help her in the following ways:

- By making private donations or loans
- By arranging for her a personal loan with their guarantees
- By trying to source funds from bank's employee welfare programme or from employee union funds.
- By approaching the hospital to take fees in easy instalments. (287 words)

8. A landslide occurred in the middle of the night on 20th July, 2023 in a remote mountain hamlet, approximately 60 kilometers from Uttarkashi. The landslide was caused by torrential rains and has resulted in large-scale destruction of property and life. You, as district magistrate of that area, have rushed to the spot with a team of doctors, NGOs, media and police along with numerous support staff to oversee the rescue operations.

A man came running to you with a request for urgent medical help for his pregnant wife who is in labour and is losing blood. You directed your medical team to examine his wife. They return and convey to you that this woman needs blood transfusion immediately. Upon enquiry, you come to know that a few blood collection bags and blood group test kits are available in the ambulance accompanying your team. A few people of your team have already volunteered to donate blood.

Being a physician who has graduated for AIIMS, you know that blood for transfusion needs to be procured only through a recognized blood bank. Your team members are divided on this issue; some favour transfusion, while some others oppose it. The doctors in the team are ready to facilitate the delivery provided they are not penalized for transfusion. Now you are in a dilemma. Your professional training emphasizes on prioritizing service to humanity and saving lives of individuals.

- (a) What are the ethical issues involved in this case?
 (b) Evaluate the options available to you, being District Magistrate of the area?

(Answer in 250 words) 20

- Ans.** (a) (i) How best to save the life of the woman in labour who losing her blood?
 (ii) What are the applicable laws and rules as well as applicable professional medical practices?
 (iii) Is there an absolute total prohibition use of blood for transfusion other than from licensed blood banks?
 (iv) Who should take a final decision in the matter?

(b) Obviously, all possible attempts should be made to save the life of the woman in labour. There is a medico-legal problem in this case. On the one hand, facilitating delivery along with blood transfusion appears essential for saving the woman's life. On the other hand, the law appears to permit only use of blood from authorized blood banks for transfusion. The law may provide exceptions to this provision in extraordinary situations in which it is impossible to source blood from blood banks. If so, then the doctors can use the blood from the volunteers ready to donate it. They should take all safety precautions possible under the circumstances.

There is another possibility. If it is possible to bring blood through any means to the remote site, it should be done. But this may not be practicable.

Finally, the decision in this case has to be left to the doctors. They are the medical professionals on the spot. They have to assess the gravity of the woman's medical condition and decide on the optimal treatment option. The DM may have studied in AIIMS, but he cannot replace the judgement of the practicing professionals. Unless the law permits it, and authorizes DM to do so, he cannot give immunity to doctors. They have to do the best they can to save the life of the woman.

(224 words)

9. At 9 pm on Saturday evening, Rashika, a Joint Secretary, was still engrossed in her work in her office. Her husband, Vikram, is an executive in an MNC and frequently out of town in connection with his work. Their two children aged 5 and 3 are looked after by their domestic helper. At 9:30 pm her superior, Mr. Suresh calls her and asks her to prepare a detailed note on an important matter to be discussed in a meeting in the Ministry. She realises that she will have to work on Sunday to finish the additional task given by her superior.

She reflects on how she had looked forward to this posting and had worked long hours for months to achieve it. She had kept the welfare of people uppermost in discharging her duties. She feels that she has not done enough justice to her family and she has not fulfilled her duties in discharging essential social obligations. Even as recently as last month she had to leave her sick child in the nanny's care as she had to work in the office. Now, she feels that she must draw a line, beyond which her personal life should take precedence over her professional responsibilities. She thinks that there should be reasonable limits to the work ethics such as punctuality, hard work, dedication to duty and selfless service.

- (a) Discuss the ethical issues involved in this case.
- (b) Briefly describe at least four laws that have been enacted by the government with respect to providing a healthy, safe and equitable working environment for women,
- (c) Imagine you are in a similar situation. What suggestions would you make to mitigate such working conditions? *(Answer in 250 words) 20*

- Ans.** (a) The main ethical issue in this case, to use a current American phrase, is 'work life balance'. Or to what extent should one sacrifice one's personal life to meet work requirements? Another ethical issue is the need for senior officers to avoid making such excessive demands on their juniors as may affect their family life.
- (b) Four acts which Government enacted to provide a healthy, safe and equitable work environment to women are the following:
- (i) The Equal Remuneration Act which seeks to provide equal remuneration for similar work done by men and women and to end discrimination against women in job recruitment
 - (ii) The act for prevention and protection of women against workplace sexual harassment and for its redressal.
 - (iii) The Maternity Benefit Act which allows women maternity leave, other benefits, and job protection. (iv) The Companies Act which prescribes minimum representation for women in the boards of companies.
- (c) Obviously, senior officers should refrain from so overloading subordinates as to adversely affect their personal life. They should show special consideration to the problems of young mothers with small children. They should not assign them to jobs with heavy loads, tight deadlines, or those which involve handling unforeseeable emergencies. The concerned employees should seek light assignments with regular and predictable work schedules. Even officers who have ambitious career goals should avoid high pressure jobs if they have inescapable family commitments. **(233 words)**

10. Vinod is an honest and sincere IAS officer. Recently, he has taken over as Managing Director of the State Road Transport Corporation, his sixth transfer in the past three years. His peers acknowledge his vast knowledge, affability and uprightness. The Chairman of the State Road Transport Corporation is a powerful politician and is very close to the Chief Minister. Vinod comes to know about many alleged irregularities of the Corporation and the high-handedness of the Chairman in financial matters. A Board Member of the Corporation belonging to the Opposition Party meets Vinod and hands over a few documents along with a video recording in which the Chairman appears to be demanding bribe for placing a huge order for the supply of QMR tyres. Vinod recollects the Chairman expediting clearing of pending bills of QMR tyres. Vinod confronts the Board Member as to why he is shying away from exposing the Chairman with the so-called solid proof he has with him. The member informs him that the Chairman refuses to yield to his threats. He adds that Vinod may earn recognition and public support if he himself exposes the Chairman. Further, he tells Vinod that once his party comes to power, Vinod's professional growth would be assured. Vinod is aware that he may be penalized if he exposes the Chairman and may further be transferred to a distant place. He knows that the Opposition Party stands a better chance of coming to power in the forthcoming elections. However, he also realizes that the Board Member is trying to use him for his own political gains

- (a) As a conscientious civil servant, evaluate the options available to Vinod.
 (b) In the light of the above case, comment upon the ethical issues that may arise due to the politicization of the bureaucracy. *(Answer in 250 words)* 20

Ans. (a) As a conscientious civil servant, Vinod can consider three alternatives. First, he may decide to make public the materials incriminating the Chairman, which he received from the Board Member. Before making the documents and the video recording public, Vinod would have to make sure that they are authentic. In this way he may win favour of the opposition party, and gain career-wise if that party comes to power. By doing so, he would be compromising with moral norms.

Basically, exposing the Chairman is no part of Vinod's official remit. So long as he is not dragged into any wrongdoing, Vinod should ignore the matter.

As a second option, Vinod may consider bringing the matter to the notice of the chief minister. But the chief minister may not take any action since the Chairman is close to him. It is also improper for officers to approach the chief minister with such unverified materials.

The best option for Vinod is to tell the Board member to seek suitable remedies by approaching a duly empowered authority like Loakayukt.

- (b) If civil servants become politicized, they will be violating the code of conduct which prescribes that they should be politically neutral. If bureaucrats become politically aligned, they would lose their moral standing. They may be dragged into dishonest actions. In the process, they would not only sacrifice public interest but may land in trouble. They will also be violating the higher allegiance they owe to the Constitution. **(246 words)**

11. You have just been appointed as Additional Director General of Central Public Works Department. The Chief Architect of your division, who is to retire in six months, is passionately working on a very important project, the successful completion of which would earn him a lasting reputation for the rest of his life.

A new lady architect Seema, trained at Manchester School of Architecture, UK joined as Senior Architect in your division. During the briefing about the project, Seema made some suggestions which would not only add value to the project, but would also reduce completion time. This has made the Chief Architect insecure and he is constantly worried that all the credit will go to her. Subsequently, he adopted a passive and aggressive behaviour towards her and has become disrespectful to her. Seema felt it embarrassing as the Chief Architect left no chance of humiliating her. He would very often correct her in front of other colleagues and raise his voice while speaking to her. This continuous harassment has resulted in her losing confidence and self-esteem. She felt perpetually tensed, anxious and stressed. She appeared to be in awe of him since he has had a long tenure in the office and has vast experience in the area of her work.

You are aware of her outstanding academic credentials and career record in her previous organisations. However, you fear that this harassment may result in compromising her much needed contribution in this important project and may adversely impact her emotional well-being. You have also come to know from her peers that she is contemplating tendering her resignation.

- (a) What are the ethical issues involved in the above case?
- (b) What are the options available to you in order to complete the project as well as to retain Seema in the organization?
- (c) What would be your response to Seema's predicament? What measures would you institute to prevent such occurrences from happening in your organization?

(Answer in 250 words) 20

- Ans.**
- (a) This case presents three ethical issues. First, a competent lady officer is being harassed by her senior due to professional jealousy and insecurity. This has to be stopped. Secondly, the Chief Architect psychologically battered Seema and undermined her professional confidence. Seema should be reassured that no one doubts her impeccable professional credentials and past service record. Thirdly, her service interests should be protected, and the Chief Architect should not be allowed to create circumstances which may force Seema into resignation.
 - (b)
 - (i) An assessment should be made to determine if the project can be completed even without using the chief architect's services. If so, he should be told that if he continues to misbehave with Seema, the project would be taken away from him.
 - (ii) Secondly, the chief architect could be told to behave towards Seema professionally and courteously. An appeal can be made to him to act wisely and gracefully as befits his age. He could be assured of due recognition of his contribution to the project.
 - (iii) A tactical move could be to temporarily assign another project to Seema, and put her in another team.
 - (iv) Seema should be assured that her career would be protected, and that she would no longer face harassment. Her resignation, if tendered, should be rejected.

- (c) To avoid situations of this type, an officer approaching retirement should be asked to complete important assignments well before retirement. His successor, if identified, should work as his understudy. The retiring officer should be told to treat the understudy courteously. If the two quarrel, the understudy should be shifted to another team. (269 words)

12. **You hold a responsible position in a ministry in the government. One day in the morning you received a call from the school of your 11-year-old son that you are required to come and meet the Principal. You proceed to the school and find your son in the Principal's office. The Principal informs you that your son had been found wandering aimlessly in the grounds during the time classes were in progress. The class teacher further informs you that your son has lately become a loner and did not respond to questions in the class, he had also been unable to perform well in the football trials held recently. You bring your son back from the school and in the evening, you along with your wife try to find out the reasons for your son's changed behaviour. After repeated cajoling, your son shares that some children had been making fun of him in the class as well as in the WhatsApp group of the students by calling him stunted, dud and a frog. He tells you the names of a few children who are the main culprits but pleads with you to let the matter rest.**

After a few days, during a sporting event, where you and your wife have gone to watch your son play, one of your colleague's son shows you a video in which students have caricatured your son. Further, he also points out to the perpetrators who were sitting in the stands. You purposefully walk past them with your son and go home. Next day, you find on social media, a video denigrating you, your son and even your wife, stating that you engaged in physical bullying of children on the sports field. The video became viral on social media. Your friends and colleagues began calling you to find out the details. One of your juniors advised you to make a counter video giving the background and explaining that nothing had happened on the field. You, in turn posted a video which you have captured during the sporting event, identifying the likely perpetrators who were responsible for your son's predicament. You have also narrated what has actually happened in the field and made attempts to bring out the adverse effects of the misuse of social media.

- (a) **Based on the above case study, discuss the ethical issues involved in the use of social media.**
- (b) **Discuss the pros and cons of using social media by you to put across the facts to counter the fake propaganda against your family. (Answer in 250 words) 20**

- Ans.** (a) Although this case study involves misuse of social media by very young students, it reflects partly the ethical issues that use of social media raises. As happened in this case, individuals can be unfairly targeted, mercilessly bullied and psychologically traumatized. The student's personality, attitude and scholastic performance suffered. Adults suffer similarly when subjected to trolling and vicious attacks. Unfortunately, social media is hard to control. In the present case, neither the headmaster nor the class teacher knew what happened on social media. As false information can be quickly uploaded, and then spreads very quickly and widely, the victims find it hard to counter the lies. As people are gullible, disinformation can play havoc. There is widespread concern in the USA that social media platforms are spreading fake news and influencing the outcome of elections. Further, some social media giants have been accused of deliberately tweaking

their algorithms to favour certain political narratives and political personalities. They are also accused of censoring content. Social media needs to be properly regulated.

- (b) The benefit of uploading facts on social media is that people will know the truth. Such uploads will save the reputation of the victims who have been maligned. They will also expose mischievous elements. In this case, the concerned parents and teachers may take corrective action, especially since the perpetrators are young students.

On the other hand, the clarification may only elicit further misrepresentations and prolong the controversy which may otherwise go cold on its own. In this case, the perpetrators, if unchecked by parents and teachers, may intensify their social media bullying. There is easy wayout in such situations.

(272 words)

