

ForumIAS

ACADEMY

PRAJIT NAIR

IAS RANK – 87

Mains Marathon

Answer Compilations

Book – 1

Forum IAS

Daily Current Affair - Day 1

22/08/2016

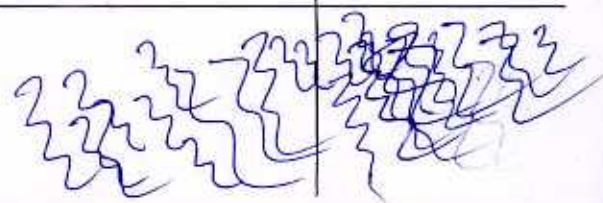
- 10) Flash floods stand for sudden flooding of the landscape due to enhanced flow of water more than the drainage capacity. In recent times urban areas have witnessed flash floods ex. Chennai in November 2015, Mumbai in 2006.

Flash floods in urban areas generally result from cloud bursts. But man-made activities have made urban floods possible without cloud bursts too.

As seen in the Chennai's example, following activities have resulted in flash-floods

- i) land reclamation of water bodies
- ii) ~~the~~ construction activities on flood plains
- iii) Poor city drainage planning
- iv) concrete roads and lands not aiding water seepage
- v) Poor water resource management

These activities have made cities vulnerable to even more than average rainfall resulting in flash floods.



To ensure that flash floods are avoided in urban cities, the following policy measures can be taken

- i) thorough audit of water draining capacity of cities
- ii) Equipping drainage systems to handle overloads
- iii) stricter rules for construction on flood plains
- iv) Evolving disaster management plans for cities in case of disaster.

All these steps can help mitigate this man-made disaster in the long run if taken up.

2.)

Cultural space of citizens arises from various Articles of the Fundamental Rights that guarantee freedom to religion (Art-25, Art-26)

But as any rights, these rights are not absolute. State can impose restrictions on following grounds:

- public order
- morality and
- health.

Additionally state can regulate the financial, economic, political or secular activities of religious institutions. Constitution explicitly grants ability to states to interfere towards enabling social welfare and reform for throwing open Hindu religious institutions.

In recent times, the judiciary has taken up following cases which try to regulate cultural activities.

- 1) Women entry into Sabarimala temple
- 2) Enabling state intervention into management of temple affairs by communities in Tamil Nadu

iii) Question of communities' monopoly over conducting temple rites.

iv) Jatti Banned Jallikattu as a cultural activity.

v) Raised concerns of practises during Nag panchami.

Judiciary has taken up cases and delivered judgements that try to make cultural practises adhere to norms of modernity.

Towards securing ideals of the Preamble of securing social democracy, the state and the judiciary is justified in interfering in cultural ~~activities~~ space of citizens. It is their duty to ensure that the constitution is adhered to in cultural space of citizens too.

3.) Augmented reality stands for a technology that enhances our senses with aided of technology. It could have a wide range of applications in daily activities.

For children, however, augmented reality can raise concerns regarding safety in real and virtual world. These are:

In virtual world

- it could expose them to paedophiles
- it could render them vulnerable towards accessing porn or films above their understanding
- it could lead them to share personal details with unknown individuals
- it could expose them to harm on virtual platforms

In real world

- it could distract them from studies
- it could lessen their worldly physical interaction
- it could affect personality development

it could strain family relations

But augmented reality also has positives that could aid children. These are

- i) it could help children explore the world and learn.
- ii) it could aid their classroom teaching and learning
- iii) it could aid pro children with learning disabilities or personality disorders in newer ways.
- iv) it could help parents keep easier tabs on children.

Therefore, augmented reality could have both positive as well as negative effects on children.

4.) The Arctic is the 2nd largest ice containing ocean that has immense resource potential. With climate change, the ice of the Arctic region is melting giving opportunities to tap this region's potential.

India has significant research and resource interests in the region. Towards securing this India has taken following steps:

- i) It has established scientific stations near the Arctic. One of them is IndARC.
- ii) It has established a seed bank at Svalbard in Norway.
- iii) It has acquired an observer status in the Arctic Council.

Apart from these initiatives, India is seeking to develop relations with other Arctic Council members. As a large energy consumer and growing demand for raw materials, India is actively interested in the opening resource

potential of Arctic.

Additionally, the opening of Arctic ocean would enable additional sea routes for Northern countries. India seeks to harness this capability too.

To further interests in the region, India can take following steps:

- i) Further develop relations with Sweden, Denmark and Norway
- ii) Push for equitable navigational rights
- iii) Try to establish a regime similar to Antarctica Treaty
- iv) Raise research presence in the region.

This will enable India establish itself as a major stakeholder in the region's future and secure its interests.

5.)

Fundamental duties were added to the Constitution by the ~~12th~~ 42nd amendment with the philosophy that citizens should become conscious of their duties when enjoying rights.

The significance of these rights are that they act as a reminder, a warning and as a source of inspiration to the citizens.

Overall they could help balance out rights of citizens and make them more responsible towards country's development.

To add contemporary relevance to the Fundamental duties, a few additional duties could be added to the chapter of fundamental duties. These are:

- i) ~~to~~ Make voting a duty. This would make democracy stronger
- ii) Make participation in societal development, social work a duty. This would enable citizens ~~to~~ understand more about their own societies.

iii) Make intolerance to corruption, illegal activities a fundamental duty. This would raise public spirit in citizens and help raise public rejection of corruption.

iv) Lastly make reading of the constitution itself a fundamental duty. The high ideals that permeate every article and provision should dawn upon every citizen

These fundamental duties can enrich the already existing fundamental duties and lend meaning to them.

Day 2

23/08/2016

1.) Skill India is a flagship scheme to skill 100 million workers in India's ~~own~~ labour force. Skill India would supply skilled workforce to India's Make in India initiative and enable India achieve its dream of becoming a manufacturing powerhouse.

Success of Skill India depends largely on Make-in-India for following reasons:

i) Make-in-India would create job opportunities to facilitate migration of farm labour to industries.

ii) Make-in-India would enable absorption capability of industries for new labour.

But, Make-in-India would not alone decide success of Skill India. There are other factors like

i) Reform of India's labour laws to enable labour absorption

ii) Enabling environment for companies to expand apprentices program

Brain drain
Socio-economic
Inequality and
Unemployment

iii) Ensuring skilling to be equivalent to industry demands.

iv) Creation of effective mechanisms like PPP to expand skilling initiatives.

The government has taken notable steps to promote manufacturing in India. Notable among them are:

i) Global investor summits to attract FDI

ii) changing rules in public procurement to facilitate Make-in-India. ex. defence procurement procedure (DPP)

iii) Initiatives to promote entrepreneurship ex. Start-up India

iv) Expanding credit access for industries ex. MUDRA

v) Improving Ease of Doing Business

The success however lags due to following

reasons:

i) weak banking system

ii) Global slowdown in consumption

iii) Fall in oil prices and demand

iv) crisis in Europe: Greek, Brexit

These have slowed down gains in Make-in India but with global recovery things will improve.

Retrospective taxation of Environmental clearances

2.) The recent amendment to the RBI Act makes provision for creation of a Monetary Policy Committee that will decide on the monetary policy stance.

The rationale behind creation of the MPC were as follows:

- i) To make the ~~money~~ monetary policy decision more transparent
- ii) To broad-base the decision-making by placing decision-making in the hands of a committee.

Participation
of RBI &
Finance

By replacing the present system where the governor makes the final decision, the amendments make positive changes.

The monetary Policy committee (MPC) will have 6 members with half being government representatives. This will attain following

- i) represent government needs for lower rates to spur economic growth
- ii) give RBI enough room to meet its own mandate of managing inflation

By making minutes of meetings of MPC public, it would enable not only transparency but also accountability.

By ensuring that both government nominated members and RBI-officials decide monetary policy, a platform for managing conflicting needs is established. It would help reconcile needs and achieve the best stance in the country's economic interests.

RBI alone is not primarily entitled.

5.) Namami Ganga is a Ganga river rejuvenation plan that tries to rid Ganga of its problems of pollution, sewage, ecological damage and restoring its cultural value.

The Namami Ganga is essentially a renewed effort and integration of former efforts in an holistic manner. It makes the following improvements over Ganga Action Plan:

- i) It makes a dedicated push towards holistic management.
- ii) It unites all ministries involved and focuses on integration of activities.
- iii) Additional components like Ganga Gram to involve community participation.
- iv) Nirmal Dhara initiative at 3 places urban, rural and industrial effluents to ensure all sources of pollution tackled differently.
- v) Anuradha Dhara initiative to focus activities of stopping agriculture towards sustainable management of water resources.

Essentially it imparts a watershed approach to manage the river rejuvenation.

The plan however suffers from following

lacunae:

- i) There is poor focus of rejuvenation
- ii) Reconciliation of barrages and maintaining flows is still unaddressed.
- iii) There is still an excessive focus on affluents management.

But these problems are still being tackled as they are quite dynamic in nature.

The step of holistic management is however a great improvement over GAP.

Goal

4.) The Lodha Committee on BCCI was setup by the SC to usher in reforms in the management of cricket administration in the country. The committee submitted the following recommendations:

- i) Legalize betting with safeguards in cricket.
- ii) Delink BCCI and IPL
- iii) Limit associations to one per state
- iv) Term limit for members
- v) Bar on ministers from occupying positions
- vi) Provisions for players' representation.

The recommendations are far-reaching and will have following effect on the sport:

- i) It will bring accountability in management of the sport
- ii) It will remove unholy nexus presently prevalent in the cricket administration
- iii) Will strengthen viewers' trust and enthusiasm in the game.

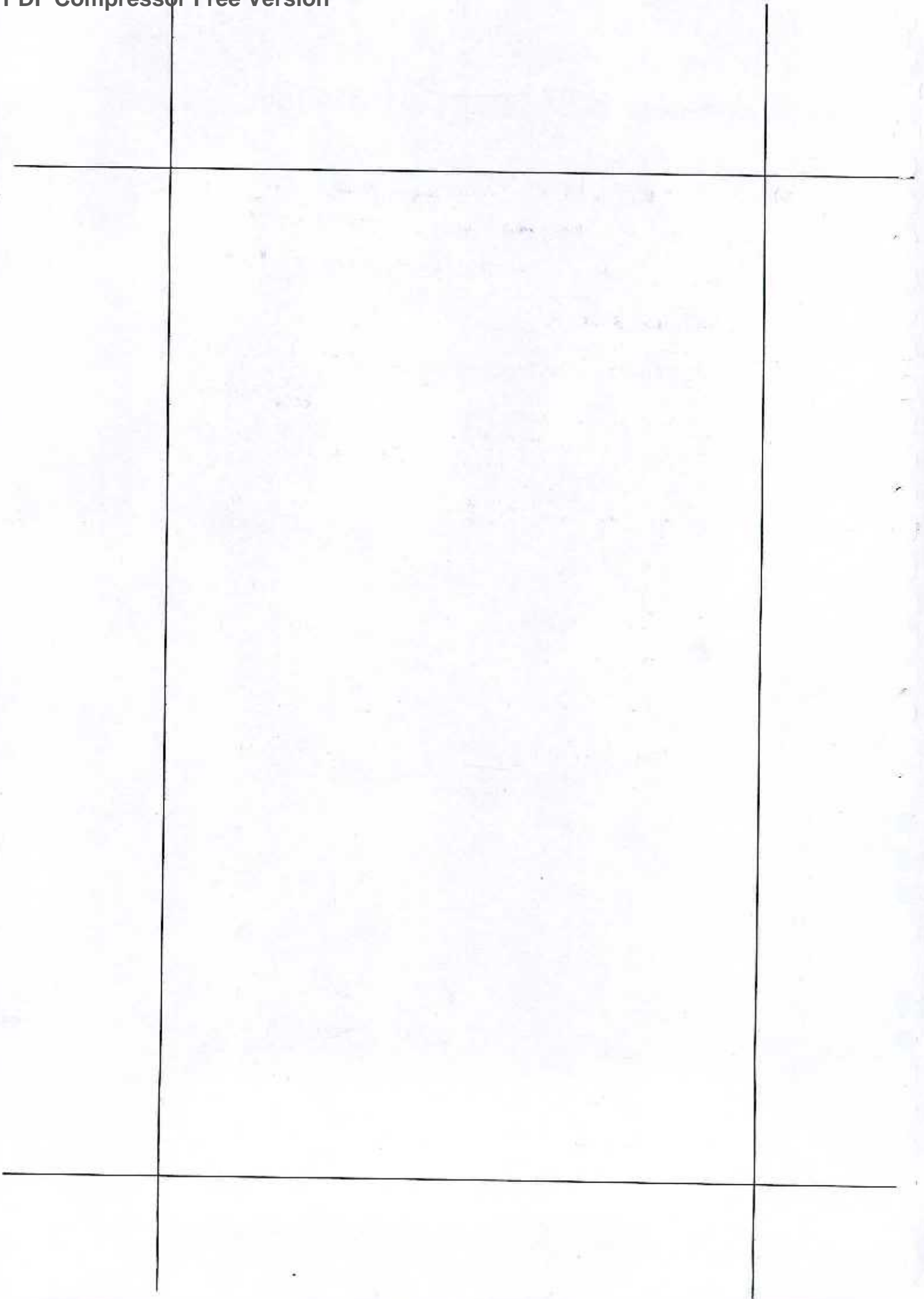
In bringing ethics, the recommendations will help in the following:

- i) Raise accountability and intuse responsibility
- ii) will remove conflict of interests
- iii) will work in dedicated administration with best interests of players and viewers in mind.

Thus, the recommendations are worthy of being implemented.

Good

3.)



Govt
↓
Judiciary

Day 3

24/08/2016

b)

offense to a women's dignity must not be seen through the lens of her marital status.

An offence is an offence whether done by her husband or an unknown person.

Marital rape is non-consensual intercourse by a women's spouse. It is against women's right to consent and therefore needs to be criminalized.

Civil society, NGOs and women's group have been raising concerns of marital rape being not recognized by the PC. To ensure that India lives up to its status as a modern democracy and society, marital rape needs to be criminalized.

However, while considering need to criminalize the following needs to be ensured

- i) Ensuring no misuse of provisions unlike section 498A as noted by the SC
- ii) Ensuring that ~~rights~~ India's special condition of widespread women illiteracy, lack of awareness and access to justice is cared for

read
Mayurlow. values
↓
govt. values

iii) Ensuring that alongwith ensuring women's right to consent, frivolous petitions are not advocated/ encouraged.

iv) sensitizing of machinery is taken up.

All these will ensure that if the marital rape is criminalized it does achieve its end of women empowerment.

Critical analysis?

2.) uniform civil code stands for a uniform legal regime for personal matters involving marriage, divorce, inheritance etc. irrespective of person's religion. It is a DPSP under Art 14 of the India Constitution.

The need for VCC is two-fold. It achieves

- i) supremacy of the constitution and state laws and reinforces secularism
- ii) It addresses women's rights as most personal laws are skewed against women.

on the first objective of addressing differentiated personal laws, VCC helps secure

following:

- i) Reduces problems in administration of legal system.
- ii) Reduces hold of conservative sections of the society
- iii) Reinforces national unity and blurs distinction based on religion.

on the second objective, a VCC helps

example

attain following:

- i) Equal rights for women in personal matters
- ii) Women empowerment through enhanced inheritance rights.
- iii) Makes women an equal partner in personal relations and reduces injustice of personal laws.

Needs focus no examples

- triple talak
- adaption
- inheritance
- abortion

reproductive right

To ensure that these objectives gains are materialized, it is necessary to ensure India secures for its citizens a uniform civil code. Only then can it ensure that the high ideals of social justice and the secular ideal ~~is achieved~~ as mentioned in the Preamble is achieved.

Gender justice

- triple talak, abortion, inheritance law

debt

3.) Green bonds are dedicated investment instruments that gather investment for environmentally friendly investments. Hence the name 'Green' Bonds. India has an ambitious green energy target of achieving 100 GW solar energy and 60 GW wind energy capacity by 2022. Early estimates indicate a funding requirement of \$160 billion.

misplaced points
is

India's ability to fund its energy projects is undermined by following:

- i) A weakened banking sector that is poorly positioned to finance these projects
- ii) Poor corporate balance sheet to make investment
- iii) Falling oil prices making domestic credit costlier for energy projects
- iv) Poorly developed corporate bond market.

II

In this regard green bonds can help in the following ways:

- i) It would help leverage external investor interest

Technology
Innovation

I

Renewable Resources in India?
Solar, Geothermal, oceanic



ii) It would help tap external sources
like sovereign wealth funds

iii) It could be used to exploit
potential sources like Green Climate
fund, GEF etc.

iv) It could be used to tap
carbon credit markets.

Green bonds would help provide the
crucial funding requirement of the ambitious
green energy plan of India.

4.)

~~Unpredictable weather patterns are weather events that are beyond average and bc~~

Unpredictable weather patterns are related to untimely and extreme weather conditions. These events disturb economic stability that lead to both human and economic losses.

In recent times the following unpredictable weather patterns have been observed:

- i) Untimely rains
- ii) Hailstorms (Maharashtra, Guolapur)
- iii) Droughts (Vidarbha)
- iv) Above average rainfall (Chennai) [⇒] Heat storms

These events have the following economic effects:

- i) loss to rabi crops due to untimely rains and heat stress at harvest
- ii) collapse of horticulture in Maharashtra due to hailstorms.
- iii) Rise of inflation in food items affecting the poorer sections

5000
5KT
200

100
100

These events also severely affect human lives in following ways:

- i) loss of lives in Chennai floods
- ii) increasing farmer suicides due to crop failure
- iii) poor nutrition reaching the BPL section due to inflation
ex. pulses inflation led to loss of protein source for the poor.

Thus extreme climate events lead to human and economic losses. A good insurance regime is necessary to tackle this especially in agricultural sector. The PMFBY is a notable step in this regard.

5.)

India recently launched the RLV-TD to test new technology that enables reuse of satellite launch vehicles. The ~~RLV~~ RLV-TD reuses the launch vehicle by using re-entry technology.

The technology will ~~be~~ bring a paradigm shift in India's satellite launch capability.

The following are the reasons:

i) It would enable reduce launch costs ~~to~~ by 80%.

ii) It would enable faster launch time as most of the vehicle would be reused.

iii) It would offer competitive cost to world satellite launch market.

Overall, it would enable India dominate the niche it has created of cheap satellite launch market.

The technology however is still far from commercial utilization. The reasons are:

i) It would take another 10-15 years to build ~~the~~ a successful full-fledged

model

- ii) It would still require mastering of many complex technologies that India requires time
 - iii) Competition from private sector like SpaceX that utilizes similar technology.
 - iv) Success depends on ISRO avoiding NASA's failure in using the same technology.
- But inspite of these challenges, the mission bodes well for future of India's space programme.

Day 4

25/08/2016

- 1.) Open defecation is a serious societal problem that affects ~~societal~~ public health in serious ways. India has a serious open defecation problem and consequently carries 30% of the global burden of childhood stunting, diarrhoea, malnutrition etc.

Lack of sanitation and open defecation result in the following:

- i) Diarrhoea in children
- ii) Prevalence of intestinal worms
- iii) Poor nutrition uptake due to above reasons.

These bring malnutrition and stunting in children. It also puts strain on country's human resource, healthcare spending and childhood development.

Towards tackling issues of sanitation and open defecation, government has taken following steps:

- i) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

to tackle open defecation in India

ii) Mission mode project to construct sanitary toilets in rural habitations as part of SBA

iii) Provisioning of sanitation facilities and drinking water through

NRDWM

iv) Healthcare initiatives like Rotavac vaccines to tackle diarrhoea.

v) Alongwith SBA, massive social awareness campaigns through all

~~the~~ mode of public engagement

to advocate evils of open defecation.

These initiatives though noteworthy have further scope for improvement in following ways

i) Need to induce behavioural changes to shed habit of open defecation

ii) Need to address sanitation needs with

holistic approaches that link drinking water access too.

iii) Need to address issues of sanitary tank cleaning too. As seen in Kerala, it could be a problem if left unaddressed.

only a holistic addressal could solve India's open defecation problem.

- 4.) India has one of the largest diaspora population that present a huge potential in myriad fields. Its potential is most significant in India's economic development.

The economic development of India can be aided by diaspora in following ways

- i) By investing their capital in India
- ii) By imparting their know-how and utilizing domestic entrepreneurship ecosystem
- iii) By utilizing their R&D potential towards India's development
- iv) By lobbying for better India relations among host countries.

But all these require that India fulfils needs and aspirations of the diaspora. As a economically rich, politically connected and intellectually aware community representing India's culture their needs include:

- D) Easier visa norms
- ii) Streamlined banking services
- iii) special needs for rehabilitation on return
- iv) Encouraging environment for relocating back to India

Their aspiration include:

- i) Being respected as a community holding significant levers to further India's interest.
- ii) ~~Be~~ Their contribution being reflected positively in India's growth

Towards securing these ends Indian government has taken notable steps in recent times like

- i) Regular holding of outreach programmes
- ii) Initiatives by culture and Tourism ministries to reignite ties
- iii) Personal outreach by the PM himself.

All this helped recognize their role and has imparted it with much needed public recognition of their potential.

3.)

Civil Aviation is a ~~key~~ sector that India is ~~disproportionately~~

A vibrant civil aviation sector is in India's best interest for its economic growth potential to be realized. The National Civil Aviation Policy 2016 tries to reform the civil aviation sector and achieves the same.

The notable points in the policy that can help reform the sector are as follows:

- i) It corrects the 5/20 rule that has long been complained.
- ii) It works in the Regional connectivity scheme that tries to incentivise domestic connectivity
- iii) It corrects the 5/20 rule leading to an encouraging environment for competition in the sector.

Overall it seeks to raise 30 crore flyers by 2022 annually up from the present 7 crore.

The challenges that the sector will face are as follows:

i) Ensuring the airline business remains viable and attracts new players unlike the past where airlines went bankrupt.
ex. Kingfisher

ii) Ensuring that needs of domestic connectivity are balanced with need to fly profitable routes.

iii) Ensuring safety of passengers and trust is safeguarded with relaxing of rules

If these challenges are met, then the policy will definitely lead to realization of a vibrant civil aviation sector in the country.

2.)

Disasters like floods occur when ~~normal~~ above-normal events like enhanced rains cannot be handled by public service providers. For example Chennai floods occurred when city could not handle enhanced rainfall.

Day 5

26/08/2016

1) Fat tax is a tax that is applied on food products that have high percentage of unhealthy (saturated) fats. It is meant to dissuade people from consuming such foods. Recently the Kerala govt introduced fat tax on food sold by MNC fast-food chains like KFC, McDonalds etc.

The move is laudable for a number of reasons like:

- i) It promotes healthy food choices
- ii) It promotes public health
- iii) Helps state dual benefits of increased revenue and reduced health expenditure

But the move falls short for following

reasons:

- i) Presently it focuses upon foreign food chains only
- ii) Doesnot include the traditional street food that could be equally unhealthy.

But in light of the fact that such street foods are difficult to regulate and are outside the tax net, the step is atleast a positive one.

with regards to international trade agreements under WTO and obligations on part of the state, the following issues are inherent:

- i) the foreign food chain companies can complain of discrimination
- ii) it affects the investment climate as other companies in other sectors fear similar actions too.

In light of these concerns it would be pertinent to extend the ban on similar Indian food chains and hotels too and base it on some scientific criteria. That way the move will pass the test of non-discrimination and fulfil WTO obligations too.

2.) India is trying to build itself into the next manufacturing superpower of the world. It seeks to do so on the back of its huge demographic dividend.

The first and foremost challenge to achieve this has been to shift its excess labour of farms to manufacturing industries. skilling is the key to success for this.

The government has taken notable steps in this regard as follows:

i) launched skill India mission with an elaborate plan to skill 400 million by 2022

ii) Taken steps to spur apprentices programs for industry to train people

iii) Reformed its major labour laws to facilitate ~~the~~ on-the-job skilling.

But, the government's effort ~~depends~~ bearing fruit depends a lot on the industry.

Industry involvement is the key due to following reasons:

- i) Industry holds the decision regarding expansion of investment into capital or labour intensive production capabilities
- ii) Industry sets the standards for skilling requirements.
- iii) Industry cooperation is pivotal in creating skilling capacity to train people.
- iv) Their willingness decides employability of skilled people.
- v) Their ~~an~~ entrepreneurship decides creation of formal sector jobs.

Hence, industry holds crucial keys to ~~also~~ show the way for skill India.

3.) The Parliament recently passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2016 that effectively bans commercial surrogacy in India. It is a much awaited move that is desirable.

The bill was passed with underlying reasons of protectionism. This can be valid in the following:

i) Surrogacy was unregulated and led to rampant misuse of women's eroded capability to fight for fair deals

ii) It introduced complexities in which couples sponsoring surrogacy divorced midway or rejected disabled babies

iii) The risks were concentrated on the women offering her womb

iv) Agents/outs exploited the women

v) No regulation of infertilization procedures

All this stops now as the bill bans commercial surrogacy.

There are arguments that it ends up discriminating against women for following reasons:

- i) It denies women to rights to lend/lease out wombs to earn a living
- ii) It denies poor women an opportunity to find a way out of poverty.

But these arguments are self-contradictory as it ~~equal~~ reduces women's value too. It ignores the hugely exploitative nature of commercial surrogacy.

In this regard the bill is a timely measure to value women and motherhood and prevent commercialization of the same.

4.) The citizenship Bill that is being drafted is much debated as it protects only restricted minorities from neighbouring countries.

It is being criticised for following reasons:

i) It does not grant citizenship protection to persecuted sections of majority communities in neighbouring countries.
ex. Sias in Pakistan

ii) It reduces consideration to religious comm denominations that may not reflect reality.

But these orgo criticisms ignore the following:

i) India is not a signatory to the UN Refugee convention of 1951. It is free to draft its own policy on basis of domestic considerations

ii) It has to choose a definition of 'refugee' or 'minority' that helps it differentiate economic migrants from

persecuted minorities.

iii) India itself has domestic problems with regards to illegal migrations that threatens internal peace.

ex. Assam - Bangladesh border regions.

iv) India's economy ~~is~~ is not developed enough to handle ~~so~~ refugees of all kinds and needs to limit its efforts to meet own needs.

In light of all these, the provisions of the new Citizenship Bill are more than just forward-looking. They effectively introduce a ~~very~~ uniform refugee ~~provision~~ policy that India lacked so far. It is a positive step and ~~feel~~ any further effort should be at a later time subject to capabilities.

5.) Piracy stands for illegal usage of copyrighted content without adequate permissions from the creator. It imposes a range of cost on producers and distributors of content.

These losses can be summarized as:

- i) loss of revenue for all along production chain
- ii) loss of incentive to produce more content.
- iii) Erosion of recognition that was to be gained
- iv) Creators / artists who produce feel cheated
- v) Market system gets disrupted.

All this effectively results in lesser incentive for production of new content and attraction of talent to the sector.

But piracy has some attendant positives too. They are

- i) It promotes sharing of ideas
- ii) Knowledge grows by sharing of ideas
- iii) It addresses issues of access to areas inaccessible by markets.

For example, pirated copies of books being only source for much of the rural India where distributors don't see market and therefore don't make efforts to expand reach.

But these positives can be ~~corrected~~ ^{still maintained} by improving technological access, mandating anti-piracy norms, improving market. The government following steps help prevent piracy

i) Digital India, MOFN-Bharat Net helps expand access to markets.

ii) Ban on content-sharing sites like torrent.

iii) Improving access to disabled by signing the Marrakesh treaty

iv) Making public know that piracy is illegal and punishable through campaigns.

These efforts indicate at a two-branded effort at banning piracy and correcting access asymmetry. Thus it is a holistic measure that is positive.

Day 6

29/08/2016

1.)

The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2016 was passed with an intent to BAN COMMERCIAL SURROGACY in India. The reasons for banning are as follows:

- i) It was resulting in EXPLOITATION OF POOR WOMEN who volunteered
- ii) REGULATORY REGIME was absent
- iii) MIDDLEMEN/TOUTS were profiteering at the cost of women who volunteered
- iv) MEDICAL and LEGAL ISSUES arose and complicated surrogacy.

In this regard the Surrogacy Bill seeks to ban commercial surrogacy and also introduces following positive provisions:

- i) Allows ALTRUISTIC SURROGACY
- ii) limits surrogacy to only CHILDLESS MARRIED COUPLES

From the point of view of the child the bill enables the following:

- i) It tries to maintain sanctity of mother child relationship

ii) By banning surrogacy, FUTURE LEGAL PROBLEMS of the child are avoided.

There are however a few criticisms that have been raised against banning commercial surrogacy. These are:

- i) IT DENIES RIGHT to POOR WOMEN to find a way out of poverty
- ii) It denies women a way to RENT OUT A SERVICE OF WOMB.
- iii) It denies women RIGHT TO ~~DEPT~~ DECIDE for themselves.

But in light of the exploitation that women are subjected to in surrogacy and the eroded capability of these poor women to ensure fair contracts, the bill is a step in the right direction.

3.

lean proteins are good protein sources that are high in protein and low in carbohydrates and fat.

~~There are many benefits of~~
 Plant protein and animal proteins are two sources for humans to fulfill protein requirements. Animal proteins include milk, meat, fish, eggs etc. Plant proteins include pulses, lentils, soybeans, oilseeds etc.

There are many benefits of eating more plant proteins than animal proteins. The health benefits are

- plant proteins are easier to digest
- plant proteins have essential nutrients and minerals that animal proteins lack
- plant proteins are more readily absorbed into the body
- plant proteins also have fibrous component, carbohydrates and healthy fats
- animal fats are high in animal protein

and raise cholesterol levels.

~~There~~ There are environmental benefits too

i) Plant proteins are environmental friendly as most are legumes and recharge soil nitrogen

ii) They are less water-intensive

iii) As they are products of primary producers (plants), they require less energy.

iv) They release negligible green house gases like methane which animals do

Thus plant protein sources are better health-wise and environment-wise.

5.)

Natural gas hydrates are natural gas stored in ice-like combinations of natural gas and water.

They are found in oceans and polar regions.

Recently, an Indo-US joint collaborative effort found rich natural gas hydrates deposits in the Krishna-Godavari Basin of Andhra Pradesh coast. India has a large coastline that can have tremendous potential for natural gas hydrates.

The importance for India with regards to natural gas hydrates are:

- i) India is a NET IMPORTER of Natural gas
- ii) Gas accounts for 19% of all power needs.
- iii) India is a rapidly DEVELOPING country with ENERGY NEEDS SET TO GROW in coming decades
- iv) India has a huge IMPORT BILL
- v) Much of India's DOMESTIC PRODUCTION is ill-suited to meet its requirements.

There are however POTENTIAL HURDLES in realizing of these resource potential. These are:

i) Natural gas hydrates are located at varying depths. COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION is VIABLE only if it is located in coarser sands close to the shore.

ii) The technology required for mining is not available with India

iii) It does not have an ENABLING REGULATORY REGIME as seen in the ongoing ICG-DG basin conflict

iv) PRIVATE PARTICIPATION in the sector is still lacking

If these hurdles are overcome the natural gas hydrates can be utilized to fulfil India's energy needs.

2.) The Indus water Treaty was signed between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the 1965 war. The notable provisions of the treaty are:

- i) IT ~~IS~~ DIVIDED THE INDUS WATERS between both the countries
- ii) IT made Pakistan abide by BILATERAL RESOLUTION OF DISPUTE

The treaty was landmark as it was meant to shed a constant apprehension of Pakistan with regards to the water and make way for peace.

But Pakistan has not kept ~~the~~ its end of the bargain. This can be seen in:

- i) Repeated third party arbitration demands with regards to various issues dragging India to the UN
- ii) Not allowing India to utilize hydropower capabilities of the Indus water as agreed by the Indus water TREATY itself.

ii) Denying India a right to utilize its share of 20% ~~total~~ of Indus waters.

All this indicate that India did not achieve its benefits by signing the treaty. Instead it got:

- i) 2 additional wars (1971, 1999)
- ii) Kashmir could not develop agriculturally and its restiveness is exploited by Pakistan.

India could renege on the treaty given its provisions and changed situations of the region. *

4.)

Achieving social justice is one of the stated aims of the PREAMBLE to the Constitution. And India is steadfast in achieving this goal. Towards creating a social justice regime, to identify the poor, India conducts a BPL census. The BPL census is used to design poverty alleviation programmes.

There are, however, issues with the BPL censuses. These are as follows:

- i) These censuses are based on fixed basket of consumption goods
- ii) It may not reflect multi-dimensional nature of poverty.
- iii) Some sections just above the poverty line may get excluded.

These result in poor effectiveness of poverty alleviation programme.

To address effectiveness of poverty alleviation programme there are a few steps that can be taken. They are:

- i) Address the question of what ~~is~~ poverty means to people. Address its multi-dimensional nature.
- ii) Design plans that are universal in ambit and try to utilize self-exclusion principles
- iii) Vigourously utilize technological innovations like Aadhaar to enable inclusion
- iv) Address basic needs like food, health, sanitation, drinking water through rights-based approaches.
- v) Focus on ensuring basic entitlement to people and allot them opportunities to free themselves from the cycle of poverty.

Day 7

30/08/2016

4.)

Groundwater depletion stands for utilization BEYOND RECHARGE CAPACITY of groundwater capacity. It is a growing problem in India especially in the NORTHWEST and SOUTHEAST parts of India.

The major causes of groundwater depletion are manifold. They are:

i) SUPPLY SIDE FACTORS

- decreasing groundwater recharge due to poor recharge capacity, deforestation, concrete roads, grazing
- poor monsoons, high variability
- lack of surface water resources

ii) DEMAND SIDE FACTORS

- decreasing per capita availability of water due to increasing population
- growing water-guzzling crops like sugarcane, rice ill-suited to areas
- Green revolution crops requiring high irrigation

iii) FAULTY POLICIES

- poor regulation
- free power incentivizing groundwater pumping
- lack of MSP for water-saving crops like coarse grains, pulses etc.

To negate these factors, government has taken following steps:

- i) Rationalization of power subsidy and diesel subsidy
- ii) MSP for less water-intensive crops
- iii) Mirir Shah committee to analyze water requirements and suggest measures

In light of these steps, India can do much more by pricing water, enforcing groundwater usage regulations and establishing concept of water budgeting at all levels.

This will ensure that the problem of depleting ground water is corrected in time.

5.) Climate change is the long-term increase in global temperature due to anthropogenic causes. This causes climate change and has huge ramifications on sealevels.

One such ramification is ~~sea level~~ KING TIDES. These tides are higher than average high tides due to rising sea-levels. The linkage to climate change is as follows:

- i) Increased temperature causes more glacier melting raising sea water
- ii) Increased temperature causes more expansion of water raising volume
- iii) It raises evaporation and, therefore, the possibility of extreme events like cyclones.

Thus climate change affects normal events like tide and impart them extreme ~~power~~ intensities in varied ways.

The Pacific islands are a littoral of many islands that have volcanic and coral origins

The effects of climate change on these countries are multi-dimensional. They are:

- i) Most countries are islands ex. Fiji, Guam, Tuvalu, Kiribati.
- ii) Most lie barely 8ft above mean sea level
- iii) They are dependent on fishes and coral resources that are affected by climate change
- iv) Local tourism based on corals is getting affected due to climate change
- v) Food, livelihood and existence itself of these islands is getting threatened.

In this regard, notable steps like the Paris climate Change Conference has addressed concerns of these nations in the LDC clause incorporated. Joint efforts by the whole community of nations would be require to protect Earth from effects of climate change.

2.) South China Sea has been a near conflict area with countries of China, Taiwan, Phillipines, Vietnam, Malaysia fighting over sovereignty over the sea.

The ongoing south China sea (SCS) dispute pertains to sovereignty over the sea and its resources. It started with China's claim over the SCS in the form of a nine-dash line that effectively claims 90% of the SCS.

The SCS conflict was taken by Phillipines to the ~~the~~ Hague court of ICJ as both Phillipines and China are signatories to the UNCLOS. The Hague court ruled in favour of Phillipines, negating China's claim.

China has rejected the verdict of the tribunal and still claims sovereignty. It notes that the tribunal ~~is~~ is not mandated to rule on a bilateral issue.

The reaction is in-line with behaviour of big power to 3rd party arbitrations and rulings.

International arbitrators have a chequered history so far. In case involving less powerful countries, the past shows

- resolution of conflict on basis of arbitration ruling
- following of ~~making~~ verdict by conflict parties.

Many crisis in the past like Kosovo crisis, Israel-Egypt war etc. have shown international arbitration succeeds.

In cases of big powers however international arbitration does not effectively deal with the conflict. The SCS is a notable example how big power react to verdicts that are against them.

3.) Indo-African relations have a glorious past starting post-Independence when India was at the forefront of fighting colonialism and advocating decolonization efforts. The NAM served as a tool to forward Indo-African relations.

But ~~recent~~ in present times, situations have changed as in following respects:

- i) African nations have long held their least developed status and emerged as growing economies
- ii) Today they seek partners in development
- iii) They are independent nations that bargain hard and value cooperation

And, China has emerged as the dominant player in the region with

- increased trade at around \$150 billion annually
- increased investment in the region
- increased involvement in infrastructure building

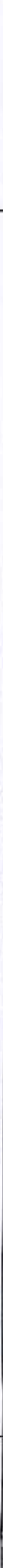
- increased diplomatic engagement at all levels

In this regard, India lags behind as seen in following respects:

- * bilateral trade at \$70 billion is much below potential
- * engagement at diplomatic level is very less
- * most initiatives are private sector led
- * only few sectors like pharma, pubs, medical tourism see Indian involvement

India has a glorious past with African countries with unswerving support at all forum. Both ~~countries~~, India and Africa, have huge complementarities that need be explored to further engagement. India needs to utilize its complementarities with the continent to compete better against china in developing effective relationship with the continent.

b)



Day 8

01/09/2016

3) Commercial surrogacy stands for practises of lending ~~one's~~ one's womb for commercial purposes. It was recently banned by the Surrogacy Bill 2016.

The problems inherent in commercial surrogacy that required banning of the activity are:

- i) It was exploitative for women who volunteered
- ii) It was largely unregulated and operated in shadowy conditions with poor safeguard of rights
- iii) It led to legal and ethical issues as it was tantamount to commercialization of an ~~and~~ sacred activity

Strict regulation and enforcement could have solved the problem of exploitation in some way. But it would have addressed the ethical issue of commercialization of giving birth and violation of mother-child bond.

The bill however has some lacunae that needs mention. They are:

- i) It allows altruistic surrogacy only for childless married couples and bans gays and homosexuals from adopting
- ii) It denies women the right to utilize their body in whatever ways they wish to.

The impact of the bill on various stakeholders are varied and are as follows

- i) For women it sets forth norms for volunteering for surrogacy and removes scope for exploitation
 - ii) For child, the bill avoids future legal troubles
 - iii) For society, the bill reaffirms the sanctity of the act of giving birth
- Overall, the bill is a worthy legislation that was very much needed.

5.) The FCRA tries to regulate foreign contribution to voluntary sector organizations like NGOs. It was meant to ensure that these funds are not misused towards anti-national, anti-government activities and to ensure that NGOs work in the interest of the society.

The Act has provisions to ~~see~~ allow foreign contribution and recent rules have made the following

- i) It has enabled more easier reporting of funds and enabled easier streamlined procedures for ~~the~~ registering
- ii) Disclosure norms have been made cheap with government enabling aid in setting up websites for the same
- iii) Focus on automatic reporting through banks.

The act overall tries to infuse financial propriety and transparency in the working of the sector. Given the public nature of their activities, this is very much desirable.

There is also allegations that the Act is being utilized to curb dissent. This criticism is mistaken because:

- i) the act tries to increase transparency
- ii) it eases registration and in a way promotes ~~public~~ publicly desirable activities.

And given the recent report of IB that suggests some NGOs being involved in anti-development activity, the Act is desirably needed.

It is publicly desirable for the state to regulate sectors like NGOs to ensure that they work in public spirit and the FCRA does well to ensure that NGOs work freely and without favour in the interest of the nation.

1.) India and Africa have a long history of amicable relationship that is strengthened by shared interest. This has been repeatedly shown through cooperation in various fields throughout the last few decades.

India's interest in Africa differ from China in following ways:

- i) China is interested in resources of Africa only. India is more focused on building capabilities.
- ii) India seeks African support for UNSC seat. China has no such need.
- iii) India seeks a valuable partner in safeguarding Indian ocean and African countries have shared interest for the same. This differs from China's interest.
- iv) India seeks markets in sectors like pharma, IT that China does not specialize.

v) India seeks African cooperation at multilateral organizations like G-77, WTO, UN etc.

The key areas of cooperation between India and Africa are:

i) UNSC reforms and WTO dealings.

Both players ~~are~~ seek similar demands.

ii) Bilateral trade in goods and services. At \$70 billion, both feel need to realize vast potential.

iii) India ~~seeks~~ cooperates in areas of health, tele-medicine, generic drugs etc.

iv) African countries seek Indian cooperation in infrastructure building.

The latest Ind-Afro summit, announcement of lines of credit for African nation by Indian PM indicate tremendous cooperation of both.

4.) Maldives is an island nation south of India in the Indian ocean. It has had a close relationship with India and has significant India-origin population.

Maldives has witnessed political turmoil in the last few years with a democratically elected government being toppled by a dictator. As a nation in transition from its former dictatorship to democracy, Maldives has plunged back to a dictatorial government.

Maldives has tremendous geo-strategic significance from India's point-of-view. This can be seen in the following:

- i) Maldives lies very close to India and occupies a close position to the Indian ocean SLOCs.
- ii) It is close to the transit route of 2/3rd of world's energy shipping
- iii) It has an important position with

respect to anti-piracy operations:

- iv) It lies very close to India's EEZ and comes within India's sphere of influence
- v) India has significant cultural and political linkages with the country historically and is home to significant Indian-origin community
- vi) Maldives is also a major source of FII and FDI into India.

Thus, Maldives has tremendous significance in the geo-political setup in Indian ocean.

It is pertinent for India to ensure that the country is aligned towards Indian interests.

12) A statutory minimum ~~ex~~ wage ensures that labour receives a uniform basic wage that is commensurate with needs of meeting basic ~~requirements~~ needs of food, shelter and enjoyment of life.

India has adopted liberalization policy post-1991 reforms and relies on market to meet its aims. A regime of ~~ex~~ minimum wage to unorganized sector will however not secure welfare for following reasons:

i) It would raise inflationary pressures that would negate welfare as it affects poor the most

ii) It would negate market mechanisms that work on demand and supply

iii) It would hamper states from utilizing labour and attractive wages to drive development and attract investment.

In this regard, coverage

is being provided to the insured under the policy. The policy provides that the insured is entitled to the full amount of the benefit if the insured is unable to perform his or her usual and customary duties as a result of a physical injury or sickness. The insured is also entitled to the full amount of the benefit if the insured is unable to perform his or her usual and customary duties as a result of a mental illness. The insured is also entitled to the full amount of the benefit if the insured is unable to perform his or her usual and customary duties as a result of a physical injury or sickness and a mental illness. The insured is also entitled to the full amount of the benefit if the insured is unable to perform his or her usual and customary duties as a result of a physical injury or sickness and a mental illness.

Day 9

02/09/2016

- 1.) A global economy powered by solar power cannot be achieved in isolation due to enormity of the problem, magnanimity of the solutions and futility of individual efforts.

Two problems that beset realization of solar power are as follows:

- i) It requires huge financial resources
- ii) Government policies and goals are not ~~to~~ aligned synergistically
- iii) R&D efforts are less and in silos with most countries still stuck with low-tech products.

In this regard, the role of International Solar Alliance assumes significance. The ISA is a combined cooperative initiative of 121-solar rich countries initiated by India and France.

It can help in following ways:

- i) It will help aggregate financial resources to meet the challenge of financial investment for solar

power

ii) It will help enable ~~enabling~~ evolving coherent national policies and goals with requisite debate and combined brainstorming of leaders

iii) It will enable cooperation in R&D efforts and aggregation of political, economic and financial resources for the same.

Thus the ISA can significantly enable meeting the challenges posed ~~by~~ in realization of a global economy based on solar energy.

2) Masala bonds are ~~the~~ rupee-denominated financial bonds that tap foreign investor markets. They are debt instruments that are being aggressively promoted for various public and private financing requirements.

India has ambitious plans through schemes like Make-in-India and an ambitious renewable energy program that denote an investment requirement of few trillion dollars. Additionally schemes like Housing-for-All need investment of gigantic proportion to create 22 million households.

In this regard, Masala bonds can significantly help in following ways:

i) It will enable access to cheap funding and tapping of low credit rates of foreign markets

ii) It will help public and private sector explore an alternative source of funding apart from domestic sources.

iii) Being rupee-denominated it would help negate inflationary pressures in India and also hedge against foreign-exchange volatility

iv) It would mean foreign investment that would drive wages and employment in the Indian economy. This will enable financial viability of schemes like "Housing-for-All"

Thus, the recent move of RBI to ease norms in issuing masala bonds for commercial banks is very much a desirable step.

3.) Tuberculosis is a bacterial disease that is difficult to cure and entails significant erosion of quality of life. India carries a significant part of the world's total TB burden.

TB poses a significant public policy challenge for following reasons

- i) It imposes significant cost on health expenditure
- ii) It involves many drugs that have huge side-effects on victims health and virtually renders him/her unable to work during medication
- iii) It leads to loss of significant man-hours of labour
- iv) It can degenerate to dangerous forms like MDR, XDR and TDR TB that poses a significant health risk

Towards meeting these challenges, the measures that need be taken to control ~~the~~ and

ways the spread in India are:

- i) Take holistic actions of uniting public and private sector initiatives to handle the patient
- ii) Ensure tracking of patients and enhance access to drugs
- iii) Impose a stronger regulatory regime to check MDR-TB by ensuring drugs are not indiscriminately utilized.
- iv) Carefully and cautiously utilize newer drugs like Bedaquiline to safeguard its potency.
- v) Ensure proper rehabilitation of patients post-treatment.

TB is a significant health challenge that needs urgent focus and efforts to curb spread and control its degradation to MDR-TB.

Day 10

05/09/2016

3.)

The Union government recently indicated a proposal to advance unveiling of Union Budget by a month ahead. Presently it is unveiled on the last day of February and the Budget process completes itself by around APRIL END

The problems with the present schedule

are:

- i) It results in budget process getting completed in May beginning which gives only ONE MONTH BEFORE MONSOON HITS
- ii) It results in any new public infrastructure investment getting DELAYED TILL END OF MONSOON
- iii) It lead to MARCH-RUSH in budget expenditure and consequent INEFFICIENCIES

The shift of unveiling appears superfluous due to only one month being added to before monsoon strikes. But there are significant

effects that will alter governance outcomes.

These are:

i) It gives more time to centre and state governments to initiate new schemes and investment proposals

ii) It enables to fend off the MARCH rush in expenditure

iii) will lead to efficiency in expenditure and allow stable policy outcomes.

Thus, the proposal is a noteworthy reform that can ~~also~~ help adapt legislation and executive action to climatic vagaries and help governance.

2.)

Defamation is a criminal and civil offence in India as per section 499 and 500 of the IPC. The SC has ~~not~~ upheld its constitutionality in the Subramaniam Swamy vs Union of India case 2016.

The reasons that defamation is kept as a criminal wrong is as follows:

- i) Defamation results in degradation of individual ~~character~~ reputation which is interpreted by the SC as a fundamental right under Art-21
- ii) Denial of a fundamental right is a ~~an~~ societal wrong and therefore criminal offence
- iii) Civil offence is not effective safeguard to protect individuals' character and image.
- iv) Given poor paying capability, a civil offence will not be effective to limit defamation.

§ These reasons necessitates treatment of defamation as a criminal offence.

But there are critics who raise following issues with the law:

i) It leads to stifling of expression and legitimate criticisms essential for any democracy

ii) It is prone to misuse by conservative groups and political parties against opponents

iii) It weakens freedom of speech.

But given the socio-economic conditions prevalent in India, criminalization is a necessary step to curb defamation and the SC has upheld it rightly so.

5.)

The judiciary presently lags hugely in filling up vacancies with over 473 vacancies at High Courts. A part of the reason is due to standoff between judiciary and executive over judicial appointments. This has manifested as:

- i) Delays in finalizing of memorandum of procedure for appointments by collegium
- ii) Hold up in recommendations of collegium in the interim period.

But, there are additional reasons too that have led to rising vacancies. These are:

- i) Lack of a secretariat to aid functioning of collegium.
- ii) Enormous judicial backlogs that have led to reduced time for judges to focus on appointments and short listing of candidates.

The effects of these vacancies are enormous especially with regards to judicial system. These are -

- i) It raises delays in disposal of cases
- ii) It further raises the arrears that judiciary has to deal with
- iii) It leads reduced no. of judges sitting per hearing. This affects judicial quality of judgements

In order to avoid these effects, the vacancies need to be filled up as quickly as possible. Few possible measures are for this are:

- i) Solve the stand-off between judiciary and executive
- ii) Establish a permanent secretariat to help judiciary in appointment processes
- iii) Introduce ICT in court procedures
- iv) ~~to~~ Raise transparency in judiciary by bringing it under RTI.

Day 14

12/09/2016

1.) The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) is the space vehicle of ISRO that has an indigenously developed cryogenic engine as its 3rd stage. It has a significant payload capacity of 2-2 tonnes. (4 tonne) } check

The ~~significant~~ GSLV-MK II recently has a 3rd successful launch. The significance of this is immense and is as follows:

i) It validates India's technical prowess to master complex technologies

ii) It enables India to build a niche market for more heavier satellite launch at lower cost

iii) It enables India to launch its heavier INSAT series of satellite domestically

iv) It gives confidence towards development of GSLV MK-III with a tonnes launch capacity.

It differs with PSLV in following regards:

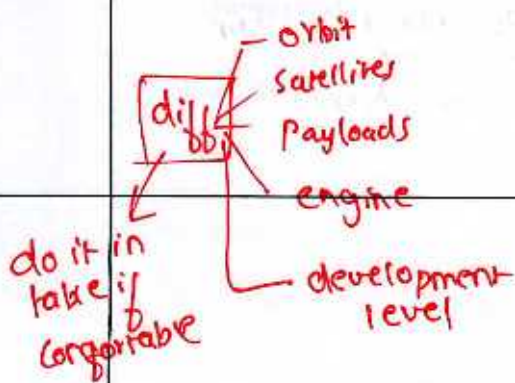
→ PSLV has no cryogenic engine while
GSLV MK-II has cryogenic third stage

i) ~~PSLV~~ Payload capacity vary with PSLV
having more capacity at 1650 kg } check
while GSLV-MK II has 2.2 tonnes } ??

ii) PSLV has had only one launch
failure but GSLV has had many
failure

iii) technology - wise PSLV is simpler
than GSLV.

Overall the achievement of successful
launch of GSLV-MKII is a significant
step for Indian space programme and
ISRO.



4) Iron and Steel Industry (ISI) is an important industry that contributes heavily to an economy's progress. It is a raw material HEAVY industry that requires huge amount of coal, iron ore, dolomite, limestone etc.

The ~~to~~ FACTORS that ~~exert~~ influence of location of ISI are

- i) Raw Material availability
ESPECIALLY COOKING COAL, IRON ORE,
LIMESTONE
- ii) Transportation facility
- iii) Market

Elaborate why these factors matter in brief

Off late a trend of MINI-STEEL plants have risen that depend on SCRAP IRON and SPONGE IRON as raw materials.

Dumping ~~is~~ stands for subversive trade practice that lead to domestic industry getting affected. It is mainly related to cheap exports that affect market prices and profitability.

India has been affected by dumping of steel from China, US, EU etc. It has affected domestic ISI in following ways:

- +) Reduced profitability
- +) Raised debts of ISI
- +) Led to unemployment

Towards tackling this, the government has taken following steps:

- i) It has imposed steel import tax of upto 20%.
- ii) Has taken decision to impose countervailing duties and anti-dumping duties.

These steps will aid curbing of dumping and help domestic industries. The government has raised the matter at recent G20 summit also.

- diagram of Iron-Steel Industries
- some examples (names).

3.) The Lodha committee was setup by the supreme court to suggest reforms to improve functioning of the BCCI. It submitted its recommendations and the salient features are:

- i) Legalize betting
- ii) Bring BCCI under RTI Act ✓
- iii) Barred ~~Barred~~ politicians, MPs and MLAs from holding positions in BCCI ✓
- iv) Introduce one-state-one-vote system to reduce state-wise disparity ✓

These recommendations can be considered

effective as it would lead to the following

- i) Reduce politicization of the BCCI ✓
- ii) Enhance transparency in its functioning ✓
- iii) Improve governance of the organization ✓
- iv) Pave the way for professional sports managers to enter into BCCI. ✓

These effects will improve cricke cricket administration in India. ✓

The usefulness of other sports also exists wrt. these recommendations. Problems with other sports administration is similar to present BCCI in this regard:

- i) Increased presence of politicians ✓
- ii) lack of orientation towards players' and sport ✓
- iii) Poor transparency and accountability mechanisms. ✓

Good ✓
These are evident in the poor show of India at Rio 2016 Olympics. Lodha committee ~~rep~~ recommendations have insightful solutions that can apply to other sports administrations too.

- How it will help other sports body.
- Other sports problem similar
- but other are not as developed as cricket
- Lodha comm will help but will require sports specific ~~rep~~ tweaking. ✓

Read PRS

Note ↓

2.)

The 2011 census states that there are 33 million child labourers in India. This makes India home to a large no. of child labourers. Towards tackling this menace India has the child Labour Act.

Recently an amendment was passed to the above Act that made following changes.

- i) It reduced definition of hazardous workplaces from around 100 to just 3.
- ii) It allowed children to work in family enterprises and work in entertainment sector subject to employment time being beyond school timings.

The amendments are notable for the

following:

- i) It reconciles the family needs of earning a livelihood with child's right to education
- ii) It ~~reduces~~ scope addresses need to study by allowing working during non-school hours.

→ Complete ban below 14 yrs.

Articles try to include:
 24 (Child Labour)
 39 (Labour)
 21-A (RTI)
 45 (DPSP edu)
 51A (—)

Though these reasons are noble, critics point out that amendments give scope for misuse in following ways:

- i) Most employments can be ~~said to~~ claimed to be family enterprises
- ii) could lead to girl child being stuck at family-run businesses and lose educational opportunities
- iii) could be misused as definition of hazardous industries has been diluted.

To address these genuine concerns, parliament could take following measures:

- i) Reconsider definition of hazardous industries with consultation of civil society
- ii) Raise penal provisions for possible misuse of provisions.

These will ensure that the amendments meet its original purpose of safeguarding child from being labourers

→ if possible read ~~PRC~~ bill from PRS.

5.) Epochs are named after impactful changes in environment that can be distinctly registered in geological timescales. The present epoch is the Holocene starting from around 11,700 years ago i.e. after the last ice age ended.

The recent / present epoch is however being considered a new epoch called Anthropocene starting about 60 years ago due to following reasons:

- i) Atmospheric CO₂ levels have breached 400 ppm mark and reached till 413 ppm.
- ii) Sea-levels have risen by 3mm/year for last many years.
- iii) Post Industrial Revolution the Earth's temperature has risen by 1.5°C.
- iv) All these changes have affected animals and plants with many on the verge of extinction.

v) Enhanced plastic waste has been released for many years that has accumulated in the environment ✓

- deforestation, environmental damage - -

All these changes have accelerated in the past few decades and have brought

significant changes that will register

themselves in all geologic and plant and animal

fossil records. ✓

As all these changes are brought by

man on earth, it is decided to name

this epoch as Anthropocene.

- Good

Day 15

13/09/2016

1.)

The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) is an ambitious programme of the government that aims to make India open-defecation free by 2019. Part of its strategy is to expand access to sanitary toilets.

But recent studies and reports indicate that open defecation is more than an access problem. Indians resort to open defecation for following reasons:

- i) Ease of Habitual reasons related to open defecation
- ii) Notions of uncleanliness related to toilets
- iii) lack of appreciation of toilets as being related to public health.

These reasons indicate behavioural and awareness related reasons for open defecation

Apart from these behavioural problem, there are other problems too. These are:

- i) lack of piped water supply ✓
- ii) lack of facilities related to clearing of sanitary tanks
- iii) coste-related issues with regards to toilet clearing (Manual scavenging)

Thus, building toilets is not just enough to achieve target of SBA. But building toilets is a very first step towards creating facilities that drive behavioural change. Therefore it is an important component of SBA.

— Nadia dist. ⇒ Sabch Souchat programme
U.N. award
↳ include religious people in SBA.

4)

The government recently unveiled the new tariff policy that is a notable step forward in correcting India electricity access problem.

The notable changes can be summarized

as

i) Electricity for all - it allows for policies that improve access of citizens to electricity

ii) Efficiency - it seeks to improve resource, capacity utilization in efficient manner

iii) Environment - it seeks to promote renewables-based energy

iv) Ease of doing business - it seeks to improve access of power to industries and thereby boost economy.

The UDAY scheme seeks to improve the discom companies and make them profitable in the near future. The new tariff policy facilitates achievement of this in following ways:

- i) By allowing capacity extension for power plants
- ii) By reforming the tariff setting structure
- iii) By incentivising environmental friendly initiatives and renewable energy.

It seeks to improve electricity access and has many positive reform changes for the whole electricity sector.

-Good

2)

NGOs and governments are partners in ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth in the good governance paradigm that has been adopted. To achieve its goals, it is important that these institutions coordinate and cooperate to reduce tension in their activities.

This growing tension has been indicated by recent tightening of the FCRA provisions and cancelling of many licenses of NGOs.

The government is correct in tightening of FCRA rules for following reasons:

- i) IB report that alleges anti-development activities of NGOs
- ii) Need to regulate foreign funds that flow to NGOs
- iii) Need to ensure that NGOs work in public interest of target society.

The NGOs are justified in raising concerns with regards to these changes too due to following reasons:

- 1) Rules have resulted in some genuine NGOs losing license ✓
- 2) It has also ramifications on image of India abroad as a country that promotes a vibrant third sector.

Towards resolving the tension inherent in the relationship, the following needs to be done:

on govt's part ✓

- i) Enable ~~the~~ easy process for NGOs for compliance to FCR norms ✓
- ii) Need to streamline processes and establish single window clearance

on NGO's part

- i) Increase transparency through proactive declaration of activities and funding
- ii) Focus on coordination and cooperation with government on solving challenges

only a combined action by both sectors can help attain inclusive and sustainable growth and

for this the tension needs to be resolved amicably.

- Good — Prodiver examples of NGOs — Greenpeace — Amnesty.

5.)

Healthcare is still inaccessible for a vast section of the society. The reasons for this are manifold. These are

i) India has a rural-urban divide in healthcare access with poor access to rural areas

ii) Inadequate doctors and beds

only 1.3 hospital beds per 1000 population

only 0.7 doctors per 1000 population

iii) Excessive focus on tertiary care and poor primary healthcare

iv) lack of preventive care focus

v) Poor health insurance coverage.

vi) Excessive focus of maternal and child care in public hospital but poor in other fields.

All these problems have been reported by various Lancet reports over the many years.

Art 47 of the constitution mandates state to make provisions to secure health of its citizens.

Good

A fundamental right to health for citizens is desirable. But following reforms need to be carried out before we achieve universalization:

i) Increase health expenditure - Presently only 1.5% of GDP

ii) Reform medical education - implement ~~the~~ Lodha committee ~~reforms~~ recommendations for reforming MCI

iii) Expand Medical education - universalization requires a trained army of doctors

iv) Expand reach of generic medicines.

Steps in this regard are already in the pipeline like MCI reforms, Draft National Health Policy, setting up of additional AIMS, Jan Aushadhi scheme. This will improve the healthcare access and enable India to achieve the directive principles of Art-47.

→ v. Good
→ keep it up

3.)

The dramatic images of a starving refugee child lying dead on a beach of the Mediterranean sea has raised the problem of children as a relegated entity in debates about migration and displacement.

But the image did generate a wave of efforts to tackle the refugee crisis and solve its root-problem like Syrian civil war.

Children are most affected members during migration and as refugees because:

- i) It raises stress levels ✓
- ii) It leads to deprivation of nutrition and rips them off families ✓
- iii) Makes them vulnerable to trafficking and abuse ✓

Also their numbers are huge as the

~~the~~ UNHCR reports that one in four children is a refugee as opposed to one in every 30 adult being a refugee.

In order that children are not neglected, the following needs to be done:

- ensure that child migrants and refugees are granted refuge
- ensure that countries are equipped to ~~care~~ take care of children's special needs.

These measures need to be ~~so~~ done with focus also on solving the root problem. The collaboration of USA and Russia to solve the Syrian crisis is a notable step forward.

Good
conclⁿ

- Address more problem & solⁿ

Day 16

14/09/2015

Genetically modified crops are products of biotechnology that use genetic engineering to modify crops and raise productivity. The use of GM crops is contentious because of:

- i) Environmental concerns regarding safety
- ii) Possible health effects if used for food crops
- iii) Issues related to MNCs controlling and monopolizing production and supply
- iv) Issue related to seed sovereignty
- v) Issues related to loss of crop diversity and indigenous varieties

Good

India has a huge population to feed and has 55% of its labourforce in agricultural sector. Raising productivity is of prime importance. Also, India imports many items like edible oil, pulses, etc. in large quantities.

GM crops in India have following potentials

- i) It can raise productivity of agriculture

Use terms
 - Food security
 - Nutritional enhancement
 - Climate resilience

- and lead to a 2nd green revolution
- i) It could result in making India self-sufficient in edible oil production with GM mustard, canola plantations.
 - ii) Raise farm incomes with productivity gains
 - iii) Adapt to climate change as GM crops could be made to be more stress resistant.

The ways to make GM crops viable in India would be

Use
 - Transparency
 - Public hearing
 - Collaboration with Civil society

- i) Build indigenous research capacity - to reduce chances of losing seed sovereignty.
- ii) clear misgivings related to use - through independent research studies
- iii) Improve regulatory regime in the sector.

These measures will lead to clearing of controversies associated with the crop and aid adoption in the long run.

→ Good
 → Use terms

1.)

~~Per capita income~~ of India's richest

the

India's richest state by per-capita income, Kerala, is four times that of the poorest state, Bihar. This indicates that inter-state disparity is severe.

The reasons for this are manifold and are as follows:

- i) Inter-state disparity in educational levels
- ii) Inter-state disparity in population and demographic attributes.
- iii) Disparity in resources and their development.
- iv) varied historical factors like success of land reforms, social justice, public health system, ~~food~~ PDS system etc.

These inter-state disparities can result in serious implications for India in following ways:

- i) It would weaken federalism

Plus

↳ FDI

↳ Infrastructure

↳ Employment skills.

Implications

- regional imbalances
- migration
- over crowding in urban region
- social problems

- ii) can lead to ~~centrifugal~~ centrifugal tendencies among richer states
- iii) will raise concerns of regionalism in the long run.
ex. Maharashtra, Kerala
- iv) It will affect normal functioning of competitive federalism as competition would be unequal.

To ensure that these implications are avoided, the following measures need be

Centre assistance taken

- FDI/ investment
- infra
- entrepreneurship
- agriculture support

- i) weaker states need to be helped to reach level of richer ones
- ii) provision of special category states needs to be ensured in other ways to aid weaker states
- iii) Centre needs to play role of balancing wheel of federalism. Its role should be to reconcile conflicts, priorities etc. amicably.

- more specific points.
- free

All these will ensure that inter-state disparities are reduced and the union strengthened in the long run.

5.) Brexit stands for the referendum held in Britain over continuing membership of UK in the European Union. The Britains voted for leaving of the union. It has many implications for India and global economies.

For global economies, the implications of Brexit are:

i) Weakened growth of already weak economies
Brexit weakens the revival of global economies post-2008

ii) Raises unpredictability - this has resulted in vulnerabilities and wild fluctuations of stock markets

iii) weakened internationalism - it raises doubts over bigger FTAs and their sustainability in the long run.

iv) EU's economic power - it will reduce EU's economic left in international monetary institutions. It will also weaken the Euro.

Same

For India, the implications are both positive as well as negative.

Positive implications

- It will help India pursue trade bilaterally given the impasse at Indo-EU FTA negotiations
- It will aid growth of India-UK relations independent of other EU members.

Negative implications

- It will affect Indian businesses located in London in diversification and investment plans.
- It will raise concerns among Indians using London as a starting point for accessing EU markets.

Overall, the impact is a blow to the global economy and mixed one for India specifically.

3.) PIL stands for a collaborative effort by the petitioner, state and the judiciary to secure observance of basic human rights. It was meant as a tool for the poor to access the highest court of the land.

But lately, as the CJI T.S. Thakur lamented, the PIL has become a tool to settle political / corporate rivalry. This indicates PIL is being misused.

Every matter of public interest cannot be matter of PIL because:

- i) PIL's basic aim is to enable access to the poor to the judiciary
- ii) It would lead to overburdening of court's docket
- iii) It could lead to judicial overreach
- iv) could lead to judicial pronouncement in policy matters
- v) could lead to judicial legislations.

looks similar

- balance of power → disturb
- democratic framework will be affected

PL can be used to serve private interests in following ways:

- i) By acting as forum to target corporate rivals
- ii) By using it as a tool to inhibit private sector activities

To ensure that PL serves its intended purpose as "public-interest" and not degrade into "political-interest" or "private-interest", it is essential that judiciary introduces checks into the usage.

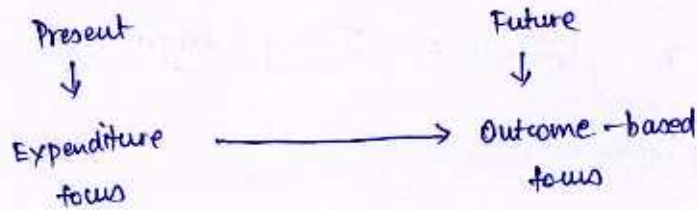
PL has largely served as a useful tool for the socially disadvantaged sections of the country. Its nature needs to be preserved to ensure public faith in the judiciary remains steady.

- Scope - Av. 32/226
- Social justice

~~2)~~ think and ote
include Examples
Rewrite

Read
To Law's

social sector expenditure need to shift
from expenditure-focus to outcome-based focus



This orients social sector schemes towards
more efficiency and success in results.

Mere increase in expenditure is not
only enough for following reasons:

- i) It lacks focus on failures of programme
- ii) It lacks orientation towards teaching efficiency in resource utilization.
- iii) It results in poor outcomes if not corrected lacunae.

Instead, if expenditure is linked towards
outcomes for socially-excluded groups and is
effectively monitored, the following gains occur:

i) Results in efficiency of resource utilization

ii) It leads to meeting targets of programmes

iii) Generates measures to solve lacunae.

bhai
3/21/21
Scheme 3/21/21

ex. outcome based approach in SBA led to focus on behavioural aspects of sanitation.

Best example

⇒ Indira Gandhi
Matritva Sahyog
Yojana
⇒ Study about it

Similarly, infusion of NGOs into programme

Implementation of many schemes resulted in effective data regarding programme shortcomings.

Thus it is essentially that social sector expenditure needs to be oriented towards an outcome based approach targetting socially excluded groups and need to be effectively monitored for lacunae.

Day 17

15/09/2016

5-)

India adheres to Panchsheel in its foreign policy conduct and never resorts to interventionist policies of any kind. With regards to Nepal, there have been allegations of interventionist policy by India. The allegations are however unfounded.

could have been added in conclusion

India has a peculiar significance with Nepal in following regards:

- i) As largest and most connected neighbour
- ii) As a guide for peaceful transition to democracy
- iii) As a country that has enormous economic significance for Nepal
- iv) As a country with strong historical and cultural ties. and geography.

This results in an intricate bond between the two countries

The present condition of the relation is factored by :

- i) The transition period and incomplete consensus in constitutional provisions
- ii) Evolving conflict between plain dwellers and hill people in Nepali society
- iii) Questions on federal system to be adopted.

All this has resulted in India being seen as supporter and interventionist by various sections of the society.

To ensure that this view does not persist, India needs to manage its image as a neutral neighbour interested in peaceful resolution of the conflict.

- Q₂ not properly addressed

+ effect

-ve effect

= Conca = intro

2.)

The BRICS grouping started out as a grouping of the dominant countries of the developing world economies to secure their interests in the economic sphere.

The BRICS have so far achieved its primary goal of reorienting global economic order to be more inclusive in following ways:

- i) Setting up of the New Development Bank as a counter to west-dominated "Bretton Woods" institutions.
- ii) Setting up of Contingency Reserve Arrangement to generate independent support systems for economies
- iii) Congruence of views at G20 and collaboration in pressing for reform at IMF, World Bank etc.

In attaining its objectives, the grouping faces following challenges: political trouble - corruption charges

i) Recession in Brazil, Russia, domestic trouble in South Africa and transitional phase of China.

ii) Divergence of member vis-a-vis strategic issues. ex. South China sea

iii) Boundary disputes between India and China

iv) Divergence on issues like VNSC reforms

The role that BRICS can play in creation of more equitable, multi-polar world order are:

i) creation of an alternate governance paradigm in global institutions (ex. NDB) as opposed to western-dominated one's (ex. IMF)

ii) Pressing jointly for reform in global commons reform (ex. internet governance)

These will ensure it pushes for a

more multi-polar world order.

→ v. Good
→ keep it up:

Substantive key word

↳ focus more

— prove the statement

— conclude with some

Read Tolani

3.)

India is a global IT superpower but only 18% of its population has access to internet. This indicates that India has a problem of a digital divide.

Digital
Dividends
Report

India's digital divide is apparent in the following:

- i) Only 3-5% penetration of wired broadband access.
- ii) Cost of internet is 6-10 times that of China.
- iii) Internet adoption is lower than China among business process.
- iv) Urban-rural divide in access to internet.

All this indicates a not-so-desirable state of affairs. But there are points of optimism too.

- i) India is a super IT sector heavy weighted with competitive IT sector that has

highly skilled labour

ii) It has a thriving IT startup ecosystem centres at Bangalore and Hyderabad

iii) It has an ambitious programme of Digital India that seeks to correct lacunae of digital divide via BharatNet Project

iv) It has a huge government involvement in digitising of governance via e-gov and m-gov as envisaged in its e-Kranti initiative.

India's demographic dividend will feed world labour markets in the long run. To ensure that they reap the fruits of globalization it is essential that India corrects its digital divide and expands opportunities to all its citizens.

4) ~~Goal~~

The classification of states into general and special category states was ushered in by the 5th FC. The classification was not constitutionally mandate, but was an executive imperative for following reasons:

- i) To correct inter-regional / inter-state disparities with regards to resources.
- ii) To enable certain disadvantaged / strategically important states develop themselves
- iii) To strengthen forces of federalism and lead to centripetal tendencies instead of centrifugal tendencies.
- iv) To correct vast diversities prevalent among states with regards to human development, income disparity, educational attainments etc.

All this ~~was~~ were an executive imperative of achieving balanced, inclusive growth and protecting

the integrity of the union of India.

But, the classification led to certain undesirable tendencies too. Those are:

i) It was faulty in some regards as it incentivized states to continue to be poor.

ii) It did not have any dynamic criteria for classification

iii) It resulted in competitive demands by various states like Bihar, most recently Andhra Pradesh.

The classification was eliminated by the 14th FC and is a step forward. But to achieve larger goals of ~~competitive~~ stable federalism, it is urgent that the classification be emulated in executive grants.

- Good

Day 18

19/09/2016

1.)

Antibiotic resistance stands for increasing resistance of bacteria to antibiotics. This makes antibiotic ineffective and bacterial infection more dangerous. The resistance is largely a man made problem as it is created due to indiscriminate usage of antibiotics.

The specific reasons that lead to buildup of antibiotic resistance in bacteria are as follows:

- i) Due to generous and often indiscriminate use of broad spectrum antibiotics
- ii) Poor regulatory regime for prescription
- iii) Low rates of complete completion of drug regime by patients
- iv) Indiscriminate proliferation of fixed dosed combinations.

~~More~~ All this has led to growing resistance of bacterial infections as indicated by growing MDR-TB and even cases of XDR-TB. The rise of the HDM-gene among bacteria is another proof that ABR is a reality.

More points

- ↳ livestock farming
- ↳ leaving treatment midcourse
- ↳ lack of awareness
- ↳ taking of wrong drugs

The necessary measures that need be taken to ensure ABR is tackled are:

- i) Create a stringent regulatory regime controlling prescription and over the counter sale of antibiotics
- ii) Raise awareness of people and caution them against self-medication.
- iii) Raise research expenditure on generation of newer families of antibiotics

Good conclusion

Recent initiatives by government like Red line on antibiotic strips, creation of new schedule #1 for such drugs, recent reforms banning FDCs are notable initiatives that can help tackle ABR in the long run.

- Good start + conclusion
- but more points.

5.) The colonial British government setup tea plantation in favourable landscapes of Upper Assam and Kerala for growing tea. This was based on locational factors of cheap labour, port facilities to export and favourable soil & climate. Through post-Independence these systems have remained intact.

The favourability of these places are indicated by following characteristics

- i) Laterite soil
- ii) Mountainous terrain that allows soil to be well drained
- iii) Adequate rainfall and temperature

Apart from these, the other conditions that favoured tea plantations are:

- i) Availability of cheap labour in these regions
- ii) Nearness to port facilities that allowed exporting tea to Europe.

These system remained intact in pre-Independence

times too and was aided by geographical factor of industrial inertia and legislative framework of Plantation Labour Act 1955.

Today, the Indian tea plantations face number of challenges. These are:

- i) competition from African countries whose tea is more red
- ii) Rising wages of labourers and cost of production
- iii) Global commodity market slowing down due to economic slowdown
- iv) lack of scope for mechanization of activities.

These challenges are being presently (v) climate change and (vi) poor working condition

faced by the sector as a whole.

Plantation owners also complain about the anachronistic nature of PLA 1955 and demand review of its provisions.

— Good attempt

4) Recently Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh witnessed unprecedented levels of forest fires that led to massive loss in economic and environmental terms. Environmental Ministry blamed man-made causes for the fire.

The major causes for these forest fires are two fold.

Natural Causes

- Low moisture and high temperature during pre-monsoon period
- Warm wind (loo) blowing across the region raise friction

Man-made causes

- extensive chir-pine plantations that are vulnerable to forest fires
- man-made activities leading to generation of friction
- electricity poles providing initial spark to light the fire

The effects of these wildfires are as follows

- it generates huge amount of loss in ecological terms (biodiversity)
- it pollutes the air with black carbon and particulate matter
- it creates conditions for ecological succession and invasion of exotic species
- livelihood affected

The measures that need be taken to

tackle this menace are:

- Possible ??
- i) Reduce human activities that lead to forest fires.
 - ii) Raise technological interventions to detect forest fires early and curb them ✓ (ISRO - Remote Sensing)
 - iii) Punish offenders with penal provisions to deter activities
 - iv) Focus on saving broad leaf deciduous trees and animals in the region.

Forest fires are natural processes that have been worsened by man-made activities. We need to reduce our impact on nature to

ensure that it exists sustainably.

— improve points.

Day 19

20/09/2016

3.)

Bharat stage emission norms are ~~vehicular~~ emission limits for internal combustion engines modelled upon European stage norms. India presently has BS-IV norms working in 33 cities and BS-III norms all over the country.

Good intro

India plans to shift from BS-IV norms directly to BS-VI norms. In doing so it faces significant challenges in following ways:

i) It will raise burden on vehicular manufacturing companies to shift their innovation timelines.

ii) It will lead to raise in cost of vehicles and burden on profitability and growth of the sector

iii) It will cause significant technological challenges as the technology needs

Indian specific optimization

- validation over 5-7 lakh kms

- cost and fuel economy optimizations.

These challenges have led to the government taking the decision of sticking by phased stages

of gradual change. BS-V would be implemented but on short timescale with BS-VI by 2022.

India's BS-norms are five years behind European adoption schedule and are marginally diluted too. The reasons are:

V. Good Points

- i) Varied environmental and climatological factors
- ii) country-specific infrastructural constraints
ex. avg. road speeds in India are much lower
- iii) size of car and fuel susceptibility
ex. Indian car owners mainly use sub-4m cars and oil is not as 'sweet' as what Europe uses
- iv) Technological difference. European car makers are ahead of us in technology adoption.

improve

Notwithstanding of diluted norms, the move will help curb vehicular emission based pollution in the long run and help fulfil our INDC commitment too.

Such type

Govt. should promote electric vehicles, public transport → National Electric Mobility Mission

5.)

Good governance stands for a governance regime that promotes transparency, accountability and peoples participation as per UNDP definition.)

It is a dynamic concept that incorporates newer facets too like timely service etc.

Internet is an effective tool that can aid improvement of governance. It has enabled improvement of governance in following ways:

- it has reduced time for servicing of public like for ex. online filing of RTI requests.

- it has enabled śuo-motu declaration of ~~to~~ reports ~~an~~ of ministries and has led to more transparency

- by aiding online filing of income tax returns or complaint redressal requests, it has led to more citizen-friendly governance

- by opening governance and legislation

Spectator/ Receiver
↓
Participants.

read tohain's
answer
specially
examples

GG
ER CARPET

Good Governance
~~Efficiency~~ L try to incorporate points of
 it in answer like
Efficiency, Responsiveness, Accountability,

consultations to online audiences through
requirements elicitation, peoples' participation

have increased:

ex. ~~Net~~ Neutrality white paper of
 TRAI

Overall it has improved mechanisms of
good governance.

The challenges that exist in digitization
 of governance in rural areas are as follows:

- digital divide in access
- digital illiteracy
- lack of awareness
- lack of infrastructural access to
 computers, e-gov. initiatives, broadband
- Cost - vulnerable to attacks

~~These~~ challenges are being overcome
 with initiatives like Digital India, Bharat Net
Project etc. Governance today is moving ~~online~~
 online and aiding the paradigm of good
governance .)

- Overall good

2.) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the next set of goals that will replace the MDGs in 2015 and form basis for guiding policy actions for the next 15 years.

Can skip

(Sustainable Development Goals are a set of 17 goals and consist of 169 targets that are improvements over MDGs in following ways.)

better

i) they apply to both developed and developing countries

ii) they are evolved through a multistakeholder approach and consists views of both the first and third world countries

iii) they are more comprehensive than MDGs and include concerns of climate change, global warming, and linkages with poverty, nutrition, sanitation etc.

India has significant relevance with regards to the SDGs. It will serve as a useful tool to design its policy frameworks. There are

But better if world include Goals of SDG rather than diff'n MDGs.

Good

read Tolani
Structure

however significant challenges that it will face in meeting these goals. These are:

i) Funding - the SDG implementation will require huge funding of around \$600 billion

ii) Expertise - incorporation and innovative policy making requires expertise and professional staff India lacks

iii) Reconciling various goals and targets with each other will be a challenge ex. climate change mitigation and poverty reduction

All these indicate that SDGs will be a serious challenge for India. But given its success in meeting much of the goals of MDGs, India will rise up to the challenge.

propaganda

India failed in 2 MDGs (poor areas)

Day 20

20/09/2016

40)

Startups are significant engines of economic growth and innovation that drive countries towards development. The government has recognized their centrality to India's dream to become the next manufacturing superpower.

In this regard, the challenges that startups in India face are as follows:

- i) Broken educational system - this leads to poor innovation energy
- ii) conservative and cautious mindset - this leads to poor societal image towards entrepreneurship and risk taking
- iii) Funding - India has poor environment of angel investors and seed funding facilities
- iv) Lack of startup ecosystem and mentoring system
- v) lack of infrastructural support in the form of internet connectivity; creativity
- vi) stringent labour laws and regulatory tax regime

Towards tackling these challenges the govt. has taken following steps to raise the startup ecosystem

Good points

- Startup India, Stand up India initiatives
- MUDRA ~~Bank~~ Yojana to cater to funding requirements of MSMEs
- Digital India to raise technological connectivity
- SEBI norms that clear angel investor norms
- RBI norms that liberalized PSL norms to aid startups.

All these initiatives have led to India becoming the 2nd ^{3rd} largest startup ecosystem as per NASSCOM. If Make-in-India is to be a reality, startups are its vehicle to realization.

Conclude - startup { innovation
spur growth
create employment

3.)

~~Brain~~ drain stands for evulsion of India's highly educated youths to greener pastures

abroad.) Indian-origin scientists, researchers and academicians account for major part of American and European countries' innovation.

Turning this brain drain into brain gain

requires 2 things, namely

i) Getting these foreign-educated Indians ??
back to India.

ii) Making them stay and contribute towards Indian economy.

Towards doing so, appropriate opportunities need be created in India in following ways:

i) These Indians need to be inspired to come back and aid India's economic and human resource development

ii) they need to be provided requisite facilities and remunerations to aid their contributions.

verbose type
give examples
please

lateral entry - Raghovam Rajan

L allow pub. employees to
contribute in governance - Nandan Nilekani

examples

iii) institutional mechanisms need to be placed to aid innovativeness and adoption of their rich experience.

Towards ensuring this, the following measures need be taken

- i) Raising research expenditure of the economy
- ii) Raising intake of fellowship programmes to aid Phds.
- iii) Raising scope for educational institutions to recruit such Indians.

Good

India has already started initiatives like GIATP, ATM to raise foreign collaboration. A dedicated attempt to attract this diaspora back to India will enable realize the aims of Make-in-India, skill India and Start-up India.

↳ ⇒ Pravasi divas

- improvement needed.

2.)

As per an MOU signed between RBI and the government, the RBI has adopted an Inflation targeting approach with a mandate to ensure inflation is within 4% with a bracket of 2%. It has been praised by many experts as it lowers inflation in the economy and has consequent spillover effects on the economy.

However to ensure that these gains are capitalized, there are other fronts on which initiatives need be taken. These are:

1) correct the supply side inefficiencies to reduce supply side inflation
ex. pubes

~~Correct~~ ~~PA~~ ~~FF~~ Correct the transmission of the monetary policy. This requires reducing banks' NPA's and correcting its appointments.

~~FF~~ Reduce volatility of the agricultural sector to ensure food inflation is reduced

~~the~~ correct inefficiencies of the subsidy regime via initiatives like DBT, Aadhaar based BAPU, reforms in PDS.
this will reduce leakages and back money generation.

~~is~~ Raise data generation of economic activities and aid RBI in tuning its monetary policy measures.

Missed points
 - employment
 - market inefficiencies

All these will ensure that RBI's mandate of inflation is met and inflationary pressures affecting the poor is reduced. Initiatives mentioned above are already being taken in present Budget 2016-17. This will aid strengthening of the RBI - government agreement.

- Δ = about battle against inflation reach against poor.

↳ re focus more on \rightarrow employment
 \rightarrow Agriculture

\rightarrow Rest okay

- structure can improve

5.)

IMF recently adopted its quota reforms that were approved in 2010. It was meant to ensure that IMF governance is controlled by members according to present global economic power structures.

The notable reforms adopted by the IMF are:

club → i) Increase in voting share of the developing countries

ii) India's voting share increased from 2.3% to 2.6%

iii) Change in system of election of the IMF director with removal of dominance of European countries in choosing the director.

The significance of these reforms are noteworthy in following ways:

i) It comes at a time when developing countries ~~are~~ have evolved alternative

Credibility
broad-based decision
Global economic order
Representation to economic power house

institutions like NDB and AIB.

ii) Increased voting power to developing
Indicates their rise in global economic
power structure

iii) Reducing relevance of post world war II
powers like France and Britain

The significance of global financial institutions
for India are immense and are as follows:

examples
needed ↗

did not
read Q.
properly

i) It acts as a source for funds and
support to India's economy.

ii) It allows India to play a role in
evolution of international financial
administration

iii) It serves as a tool for foreign
policy initiatives.

Thus India actively engages with international financial institutions and strives to
play a meaningful role.

- please add examples
- structure good

1.) Financial inclusion has been a significant challenge for India given its vast geographical expanse and rural economy. This is indicated by the fact that only 26% villages have banks within 5 kms and much of its population (>50%) is unbanked.

Towards tackling this, government has taken many initiatives starting from Bank Nationalization in 1969 till the recently unveiled PM Jan Dhan Yojana. The recent initiative of PMJDY has so far given greatest gains with

- more than 5 crore bank account creations
- catering to creation of significant bank account and viability mechanisms with DBT.

But, the financial inclusion drive is suffering due to following

- unviability in rural areas of banks accounts.

Good intro

~~Defn~~

no need
Q = Recent initiative

have to analyse other initiatives also

- rising number of inactive accounts raising bank costs.
- poor bank services like credit facilities to rural population.

All these indicate that alternative policy measures need to be explored. Some measures that are being explored are:

Good

- i) Payment Banks
- ii) Small Banks
- iii) Bharat Bill Payment System
- iv) VPI systems

read Tolani's point

Additionally traditional banking models of banking ~~market~~ correspondents need to be made more effective to ensure financial inclusion is a reality. Banking services ^{access} is the key towards India economic development and financial inclusion is the way to achieve it.

~~It is~~ not as per demand of question.

Day 21

21/09/2016

better
intro
→ objective
digitally
empowered
society
and
knowledge
economy.

1.) Digital India is the flagship programme of the government to enable creation of digital economy.

India's ~~internet~~ digital connectivity is plagued by following problems

- rural-urban divide in access
- widespread digital illiteracy in rural areas
- lack of cheap connectivity and access

To secure creation of digital economy that unites rural and urban areas, rural connectivity is the key.

To provide affordable broadband connectivity to rural areas, the government has revamped the NOFN program of former government into the Bharat Net scheme with following modifications:

- increased outlay in capex
- involvement of states in implementation
- engaging private sector in implementation through PPP.

The Bharat Net Scheme seeks to connect 2-5 lakh Gram Panchayats of the country with

transform India into Digital economy.

→ However for that Rural connectivity is imp.

⋮

explain why

- 201 - rural
- 213 - agri.

Q about initiatives taken
write more initiatives in brief.

- NOFN
- USO F
- PPP
- Providing land
- launch of satellite

a network of fibre optic cables providing 2-20mbps connection. The notable improvement in this is that it seeks to create a sustainable setup of operation

The challenges that the program will face

are:

i) Funding - it will carry an expenditure of ₹3000 crore that will be a burden for centre and states

ii) Implementation - presently the scheme has missed targets and will miss target of connecting one lakh GPs by March 2017

iii) Slow pace of progress due to involvement of 3 CPSUs and poor integration and interaction

iv) Lack of expertise in implementation of such a large scale project

v) Issues related to right of way and different agencies getting involved.

These challenges need to be addressed to

ensure success of the program.

- other points

- supporting instruments/infra

eg. computer, electricity

- digital illiteracy

2.)

China is the second largest economy in the world after US and is its manufacturing powerhouse. The Chinese economy has slowed down as its economy undergoes structural changes and it loses its stature as of low wage economy.

The resulting impact on world economy is

- it has strained demand in the world economy
- it has led to volatility
- ~~lowering~~ lowering of growth has led to easing of prices of commodity. Effectively commodity prices have fell.
- Chinese economic producing industries have led to glut in the market ex. steel

All this has meant that global economic growth has slowed down. It has aggravated the slump following the 2008 global meltdown.

The implications for India are reduced compared to other economies as its relations with

] missed Q

] 'how far'?

- add other factors

- Europe, low oil prices etc

China in trade are not as deep as other countries. There are however positive and negative impacts.

Positive impacts

- it has eased demand on coal, oil, gas that has led to reduction in their prices
- Chinese economy wage rates have climbed giving India opportunity to replace it
- India can take china's place to be the next manufacturing superpower as china transitions forward towards services based industry

Negative impacts

- glut in steel markets due to Chinese overcapacity
- Yuan devaluation affecting Indian exports
- worsening of trade deficit with china as low growth means low Indian export.

To insulate itself from such downturns, the

following steps can aid

- diversification of export ~~port~~ to more countries

- foreign reserve currency

- correction of trade deficit
- using multilateral institutions like G20 to cooperate and coordinate economic policies

These will aid to reduce effects of downturns on India

3) The ~~Compensatory~~ Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA) Bill tries to give legal basis to the CAMPA Fund created in 2006 on direction of the SC. It tries to create a legislative framework towards its utilization. ~~§~~

Compensatory Afforestation Fund is the fund that collects the penalties paid for diversion of forest to 'non-forest' purposes as per the Forest Conservation Act 1980. The CAMPA fund will be utilized to create afforestation and other activities as mentioned in the bill and SC judgement in various cases.

The notable provisions of the Bill are as follows:

- it gives legal backing to the CAMPA fund
- lays down the framework of utilization and allocation to states
- sets out activities that can be termed as legitimate activities that can utilize CAMPA funds

seems to be answer for 'Discuss' not 'critically analyze' in terms of orientation and tone.

repetition

The Bill however has a few lacunae as follows:

- it has poor checks to safeguard against diversion to illegitimate purposes like mining
- it does not take into account ecological principles of afforestation
- it does not lay down principles to be followed with regards to afforestation
- it can be used as a cover to effect deforestation and destruction of ecologically sensitive areas
- it does not take into account provisions of Forest Rights Act 2006 and tribal rights and community reserves in forest

With regards to Forest Rights Act, 2006, the CAMPA Bill has following lacunae

- no provision recognising tribal rights
- no provision that gives tribal gram sabhas right to consent diversion
- reduced tribal rights vis-a-vis community reserves.

Tribals are underprivileged sections and forests are important part of livelihood. State is bound by Art. 46 to protect this section and by Art. 38 to secure their livelihood

5.)

Diplomatic - isolation at multilateral forums

- get support from other countries and put pressure
- use platform of UNGA
- use leverages of Indus Water Treaty
- focus on sustained pressure
- utilize relations with US, Russia, EU.



Political - control rhetoric

- evaluate options
- gather opposition support

Military - IDK - offensive defence strategy

- surgical strikes
- (technology etc) border security - Madhukar Gupta committee
- joint exercises - antiterror

] also at regional level

SAARC-1

4.) Role of central bank

- money supply.
- debt manager to govt.
- regulate banking sector

linkages with economy

- monetary policy
- growth
- inflation
- FOREX stability
- unemployment

As EME

- multiple fronts
- multiple variable
- need integration, coordination
- MP-FP ~~are~~ interlinkages

Advanced economy

- less ~~are~~ fronts
- less variable
- ex- US Fed Bank
- xFOREX stability
- only ~~inflation~~ growth
- x inflation

Indian case, evolving relation. Recently MOU for inflation targeting, MPC framework passed. Towards stability but independence should be based upon learning, experience.

Day 22

22/09/2016

3.)

Medicines / Drug pricing is an areas that lacks regulatory regime. This has resulted in poor market dynamics that result in overpricing of drugs.

indirect,
peripheral

lancet reports indicate that 75% of India's population seeks treatment in private sector and 62% of its expenditure is out-of-the-pocket. And only 24% of the population has some form of health insurance.

check
67.0% of
health
expenditure
on medicines.

This results in medical debt being 2nd biggest factor that pushed people into poverty.

To tackle the issue related to drug overpricing and increasing access to drugs, government has taken following measures:

1) Recently it launched Jan Aushadhi scheme that seeks to establish 3000 stores that sell generic drugs to the public.

11) At state level, various states have taken some good initiatives

Tamil Nadu - has centralized the drug procurement facility and has led to reduction in

- National
Pharma.
Pricing
Authority
- NELM

drug prices

Rajasthan - started 'LifeLine' stores that specifically sell generic drugs.

iii) At central level, the DPCO has released an expanded list of essential drugs that will have a pricing regime in place

iv) Cancellation of over 350 FDCs to tackle predatory pricing

v) Utilization of provisions of compulsory licensing and negating of evergreening of patents through Indian Patents Act, 1970

vi) Expanded healthcare expenditure as per Draft Health Policy 2015.

The success of these programs are evident in enhanced access and reduced prices of drugs. The success however depends upon efforts to reduce unethical linkages between doctor and pharma companies. This will aid doctors to prescribe generic drugs instead of branded drugs. ~~As per~~

Art 17 State is duty bound to raise the level of public health. More needs to be done by Centre and States.

2.)

Startup India initiative is the government flagship scheme to raise ~~our~~ country's entrepreneurial spirit and utilize its demographic dividend. Startup India initiative can be a significant tool towards bringing financial inclusion in following ways:

i) It will aid innovation in expanding access to financial services

ex. utilization of mobile money since mobile usage is widespread

ii) It will aid creation of banking models that will reduce cost and aid sustainability of ~~bank~~ banking systems

iii) will help spread the fruits of economic growth and promote savings. This will aid viability of brick and mortar banking sector

Recent initiatives like unified Payment Initiative will aid utilization of entrepreneurial spirit and spawn a wave of financial inclusion. It will aid the Jan Dhan Yojana objectives too.

The challenges that startups in India faces are as follows:

i) Funding - it lacks support from banking system that is risk averse due to rising NPAs

ii) Lack of mentors - it is due to lack of guiding hands in ~~academia~~ academics and successful startups moulding budding startups

iii) lack of ecosystem - this creates lack of entrepreneurial environment

iv) lack of network of angel and seed investors

v) complex compliance to labour and tax laws

avoid. vi) lack of talent and conservative lifestyle that choose safety over ambitious work

All these is being corrected in the government Start-up India initiative. The Startup India Action Plan is notable as it seeks to correct all the above challenges via a slew of initiatives. ~~star~~ Only an unleashed entrepreneurial spirit can aid India reach its dream of being a manufacturing powerhouse in future.

1.) The recent instances of Chennai floods, Orissa's water logging and widespread traffic, Delhi's strike by municipal sanitation workers indicate urban governance lacunae. The specific ailments of India's urban governance are:

- i) lack of funds and sustainable sources of incomes
- ii) lack of an efficient and competent set of functionaries and talent
- iii) lack of a responsible set of officials accountable to the public
- iv) Excessive control of state government and poor devolution of powers for urban governance
- v) lack of urban planning and operation of district planning committees

The problems have continued with poor revision of urban finances as per 13th FC recommendations, no provision of devolution of funds by GST but complete absorption of local indirect taxes like octroi, entry tax etc.

- poor civic engagement/ citizen participation,
- PPP
- no network of ULB to share best practices etc.

with increasing urbanization to be a reality as India grows, urban governance will be the lynchpin for its economic growth. Success of economic growth depends upon stable urbanization. This will require following urban governance reforms

- i) Devolution of urban governance under schedule 12th as per 74th amendment
- ii) Devolution of adequate powers to local government to raise finances and be financially independent of state and sustainable
- iii) Improve urban planning by strengthening institutional mechanism like district planning committees
- iv) Enactment on lines of directly elected mayors to ensure responsible urban governance
- v) Focus on innovative initiatives like SMART cities, RRBAN Mission, PURA to stabilize urban growth and sustainably manage city growth.

state is bound by Art-40 to ensure that cities evolve as viable forms of self-government. Correcting urban ~~govt~~ governance will aid India's urbanization and economic growth.

Critically analyze the need

4.)

The Economic survey notes that an inefficient subsidy regime has resulted in around one lakh crore subsidy being given to relatively rich section. This involves subsidy in aviation turbine fuel, kerosene, LPG etc. But in DBT debate, agricultural subsidies have not figured.

peripheral

irrelevant

As the results of 2nd Green revolution have showed, the maximum benefit of agricultural growth has been towards rich farmers. The same is true for agricultural subsidy regime with regards to the following:

- fertilizers
- ~~subsidized~~ subsidized seeds, pesticides, insecticides
- MSP regime
- power for pumps
- subsidy for machinery like tractors

~~These~~ indicate that

As noted by Shanta Kumar Panel on FCI reforms, MSP is a subsidy that caters to the rich states and does not benefit poor states.

In this regard, DBT can be a tool to bring more economy and efficiency in agricultural subsidy in following ways:

flexibility
to farmers to
spend etc.

- it can aid rationalizing subsidy to the rich farmers
- it can aid towards correcting flaws in agricultural subsidy that results in monoculture, excessive fertilizer and pesticides usage
- it can result in more responsible use of electricity with attendant benefits of water use economy.

Thus, DBT in agricultural inputs can aid many attendant benefits apart from economic savings. The use of DBT must be therefore expanded in agriculture sector.

5.)

Important

- Important centre for
 - blue economy
 - military, naval, air command
 - point for keeping eye on Malacca
 - tribal development

∴ positive

- Benefits of using underused OFC

Satellite	OFC
- spectrum	- x spectrum
- cost	- cost
- scalability X	- scalable
- power	- low power

- How Andaman benefits

- utilize location as hub in BoB
- integrate into blue economy
- maintain link with mainland

The first part of the paper is devoted to the study of the
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Q.

importance of s. 124 IPC in present times.

Day 23

23/09/2014

3.)

Sedition means to incite hatred against one's nation. It is a punishable offence under section 124A of the IPC with imprisonment upto lifetime. It is therefore a serious offence and can affect integrity and unity of a nation. II

The SC has laid down as to what constitutes sedition in the Kedar Nath Singh case of 1962 as speech that leads to incitement of violence. In Shreya Singhal case, SC laid down that sedition involves that speech that leads to 'immediate' incitement of violence and hatred towards state.

The SC on repeated occasion has upheld the constitutionality of section 124A as within reasonable restriction clause provided in Art 19(2). SC has held that it curbs freedom of speech towards ensuring 'public order' and 'integrity' of state.

But there are criticisms of the section 124A on the following grounds:

i) it can be utilized to curb free speech and legitimate criticisms of the state policies

ii) It is used by state agencies to harass political opponents, journalists, & social activists etc.

iii) It is not suitable for the vibrant democratic setup that India has

iv) It is used indiscriminately by police

Recent instances of JNU case, and utilization against Patidar agitation leader indicate a misplaced application of the law.

But in light of the evolving challenges of Indian democracy like

- Maoists and Naxalism in various states

- insurgency in many NE states and

Jammu & Kashmir

- delicate diversity of Indian society

These challenges require presence of section 124A in present times too. The provision enables maintaining the executive's mandate of protecting and preserving India's territorial integrity.

4.)

India has a growing health problem with regards to vector-borne diseases. Every monsoon brings in peaks of diseases like dengue, chikungunya, malaria, leptosporosis etc. in many areas especially cities. Additionally, Neglected Tropical diseases like kala azar are still prevalent in 150 districts of the country.

The failure of state to control these vector borne diseases are two-fold. These are

Natural reasons

- tropical country
- high temperature coupled with high humidity aids growth of vectors
- dense forests and environments that aid vector multiplication

Man-made reasons

- poor public health infrastructure
- uncleanliness
- poor preventive mechanisms in place
- poor research in vaccination development

These conditions aggravate India's vector-borne disease control. Towards tackling this and better manage them, following measures will aid

1) Preventive measures

- raise health initiatives like sanitation, drinking water access
- raise nutritional access of citizens and reduce micro-nutrient deficiencies
- build effective public ~~care~~ healthcare facilities based upon robust PHCs.

ii) Curative measures

- on outbreak, raise response of state apparatus and integrate with district mechanisms
- raise local governance capabilities to fight outbreak
- focusing on limiting spread of disease.

iii) Other - focused initiatives like the one on Kala Azar

Measures like National Mission on Vector borne

Disease need to be aggressively pursued. State is mandated by Art 47 to improve public health. Controlling vector borne diseases will aid in fulfilling this mandate

general
not
direct

- learn from
Int'l exp.

Sri Lanka - malaria-free

- technology
eg sterile GM mosquitoes

- 2-pronged
strategy to
fight vector
and vector
carrier
etc.

5.)

Eco-sensitive zones (ESZs) are areas demarcated around protected areas such as national parks, wildlife sanctuaries etc. to provide a buffer area for these areas of high biodiversity. The significance of these areas are:

- i) It acts like a 'shock-absorber' of activities that affect protected areas
- ii) It is regulatory in nature that seeks to protect biodiversity of protected area
- iii) It tries to control fragmentation of ecological areas and maintain corridors for effective movement of species

The ESZ is notified under provisions of Environmental Protection Act 1986 and enables creation of ~~ESZ~~ ESZ based upon following criteria

- maximum area of 10 km beyond boundaries of protected area
- fracture can be extended beyond 10 kms if threat to biodiversity is there.

- regulatory nature with checks ~~on~~ nature of activities that can be legitimately carried out.

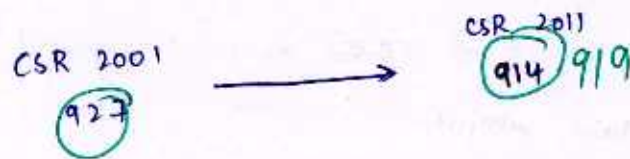
Aim of ESZ is to protect the protected areas from excessive human inter~~er~~ interference.

Vis-a-Vis hydroelectric projects, ESZ notification result in the followings impacts:

- it raises the delays in execution of projects
- it raises complexities in designing of projects
- it complicates the EIA ^{process} of the hydroelectric project
- it raises cost involved in the project and also time of completion

For hydroelectric projects, as seen in recent controversy of Panna tiger reserve and Ken-Betwa project is an example. But state is mandated under Art 48 to protect the environment too. ESZ is a notable tool that aids in this mandate fulfilment.

1.) The PCPNDT Act 1994 tries to curb and criminalize sex determination of fetuses and tries to correct the skewed child sex ratio. But inspite of this act, child sex ratio worsened from 2001 to 2011



The fall can be explained on twofold grounds:

Failure of Act

- poor penal provisions
- poor enforcement
- difficulty in proving the act due to collusion between doctors and families
- poor regulation of ultrasound devices

Societal Failings

- gender bias favouring male child
- patriarchal mindset
- poor women empowerment
- economics of dowry system
- image of girl child as liability

- failure of govt. schemes

- ~~...~~

Both these reasons have contributed to falling child sex ratio

Better income and education has had mixed results on the gender ratio. The impacts are

Positive

- it has aided ~~the~~ awareness generation in certain districts
- it has aided changing of societal attitudes to some extent
- it has raised women empowerment due to education

Negative

- ~~the~~ enhanced income has expanded access to sex determination tests,
- it has led to utilization of more advanced technologies to determine sex of fetuses
- it has led to more skewed CSR among richer states like Maharashtra and Punjab.

Low CSR is a societal ill whose effects aggravate over time and needs to be corrected in time. The ways to do this would be

- i) Raise awareness (Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao)
- ii) Raise women empowerment and education
- iii) Negate dowry system and possibly minimize it
- iv) improve women's representation at all levels.

→ effective implementation of laws PCPNDT, govt schemes

already illegal - check

state it is a fundamental right under Art. 15 to not be discriminated

States mandate under Art. 32 to secure social justice as well as secure women's interest under Art. 15. Low CSR is an ill that needs to be immediately corrected.

2.)

India lies at the heart of the Indian Ocean and therefore has a prime location that acts as its strategic backyard. In light of this, the government has recognized 'blue economy' as an important link towards world integration.

In this regard, the challenges that India faces on maritime front are as follows:

- i) Increasing piracy off the coast of Horn of Africa in Indian Ocean
- ii) Securing its energy security and SLOCs of the Indian Ocean
- iii) Securing its sea-based trade that accounts for 70% (by value) and 90% (by volume) of its international trade
- iv) Tackling the increasing presence of China and its strings of pearls that seeks to limit India's role in the Indian Ocean.

Towards challenging rising China and securing

- terror attacks
- 26/11
- smuggling
- environment/ ecology
- disasters

'How' IMSS will help
- change orientation/tone.

its interest the India Navy recently unveiled the IMSS-2015 "Securing the Seas" document. It has the following salient features

- i) Recognizes the growing relevance of 'Indo-Pacific' idea
- ii) seeks to enhance presence in regional seas extending upto Gulf of Aden, Persian Gulf, Red Sea
- iii) seeks to play role of 'net-security provider'
- iv) Raise naval capabilities towards establishing a 200-ship strong force.

All these seeks to enhance and entrench India's role in the region. It seeks to strengthen

- Look west Policy
- Act East Policy
- giving meaning ~~and~~ to its growing relations with USA and play a role in its Asia Pivot.

These will enable increase relations with neighbouring littoral nations, enhance its blue water naval capabilities, give push to development of blue economy and secure its national interest.

Day 24

26/09/2016

5.)

Recently BPL signed an MoU for joint development and research collaboration with two ~~other~~ institutes in Kerala in the field of bioremediation using bacteria.

Recently BPL signed a MoU with two Kerala based institutes for collaboration and joint research in bioremediation using bacteria.

Bioremediation is a process of mitigating impact of pollution/hazards using active biological agents like bacteria, fungi, protozoa etc.) Bioremediation

explain
in short

provides significant advantages over conventional methods of pollution remediation like mechanized cleaning, dispersal, solution etc.

Bioremediation can find immense application in following regards

- cleaning up of oil spills
- purification of contaminated soils
- in carbon dioxide sequestration
- in treatment of toxic effluents by industries
- in sewage treatment plants
- in disposal of biomedical waste

Defn = Good

① write short note
↳ ~~less~~ biofertilisers
reduce pollutants
to less harmful
elements.

Bioremediation has higher application given its environmental friendly nature, lower cost and higher impact.

In India, notable attempts are being made at using bioremediation. They are:

- i) Development of 'oil zipper' bacteria by FERI to tackle oil spills in oceans
 - ii) ~~is~~ Exploring usage of bioremediation to treat effluents and sewage as part of Haryana Ganga programme
 - iii) using E. coli bacterial strains to treat sewage plants of cities and generate electricity to Bio-digester toilets by DRDO
- These steps are notable initiatives that

utilize bioremediation as an environmentally safer way to tackle pollution in various

forms.

— improve intro + note part
— rest good.

→ issue, suggestion futuristic tone.

eg. experimental stage, can't use on large scale
move efforts ch

disproportionate focus on 3 parts of q.

(2)

better intro

The UNSC is the most powerful body among the UN and controls most of the significant decisions of the UN. In its 70th year of existence, there are reasons that require reforms in the UNSC. These are rationale

Change in world order
↳ should be reflected in UNSC

i) It reflects the world order of post world war-II.

ii) It is poor representative of contemporary world order

iii) There is virtually no representation from Africa, South America

iv) Its working has been full of irresponsible usage of veto powers (give example here)

v) It has complicated or left unsolved many problems ex. Syria

Good
vi) It has not been transparent in its working and decision. ↳ changing geopolitical and economic realities

The UNSC has acted as a small exclusive club that decides much of the collective security decisions. This requires change and therefore there is growing clamour for UNSC reform.

Use words

- ↳ Geopolitical
- ↳ New world order
- ↳ bipolar to multipolar
- ↳ and others

how helpful multilateral groupings for India

In this regard, multilateral forums have been of tremendous help to push for reform of UNSC. This has been in following ways:

CIC/African union

- it has ~~aided~~ got India to gather support from countries and continents towards its own membership ~~ex Africa~~

- it has helped towards taking a major step of adoption of a negotiating text for the UNSC reform

Other groupings.

- ① L69
- ② Small Pacific Island nations

③ OIC ← mention this group blocking reforms

not visible clearly → it has helped forge alliance like the G4 that consist of all countries who consider themselves worthy of UNSC membership

It has aided in putting pressure on the P5 to consider the reform and question its relevance and appreciate need for reforms.

Alternatively, India can pursue following measures while seeking UNSC reform and a membership:

Good

- coordinate efforts and opposition against ~~its own interests~~ united for consensus groups

- ~~Make~~ Reform its own Foreign policy in matters like refugee, internal security etc. to be seen as a worthy UNSC member

Good

- utilize its standing to gather support for reform in G33, G77 etc.

Conclⁿ missed

provisions of scheme → crisper, direct.

3.) Sarsad ~~Atal~~ Atalsh Gram Yojana was launched by the government as a flagship initiative to develop rural areas and utilize the MPs of the Parliament to drive efforts.

better words

The scheme sought to make every MP adopt a gram panchayat and guide its social and economic development by giving leadership to development initiatives.

Model Village

1-2016

check ??

~~The~~ programme sought to make MPs adopt one Gram Panchayat every year till 2019. The village will act as a model of successful development that can ~~act as a~~ be emulated in adjoining villages and districts.

The funding of the scheme was to be met by utilizing existing schemes that ~~were~~ were active.

By doing this, the basic objective was to realize Grandhi's vision of an ideal village. It also fulfilled the mandate of Art-40 of the DPSP.

There are however implementational challenges being faced in realizing goals of this scheme.

These are:

i) Funding is an issue with MPs complaining that ~~schemes~~ efforts require around 2 crores per village to be effective.

ii) Enthusiasm of MPs are a bit low with only 29 of 543 MPs adopting villages in phase-II

iii) MPs lack knowledge of all schemes working in the village and therefore cannot utilize the funding available

iv) The success of schemes depend largely upon the enthusiasm and involvement of villagers and individuals. This is a challenge that needs to be overcome.

The SAGY is a notable initiative focused on villages with village participation. ~~The~~ challenges need to be solved to help realize

Gandhi's vision of villages as ~~the~~ self-sufficient unit of ~~the~~ habitat.

— improve factual part — rest good

One of the greatest eco. challenge. - explain.

4.)

The census notes that unemployment in India was 9.6% as in 2011. This number is further added by vast ~~big~~ disguised unemployment in the agriculture sector that employ 55% of the workforce while accounting for 17% of the GDP. This indicates unemployment is a significant economic challenge for India.

Good

To tackle this economic challenges, government has taken many initiatives in the past like

- MGNREGA
- Aajeevika Mission
- NULM

More please.
↳ this is a part of question
↳ needs atleast 5 schemes

- ↳ Startup
- ↳ Make-In
- ↳ SETU

But these initiatives were not met with

- better

adequate success. The reasons for this are as following

evaluation
govt measure issue
1) Skill MA - capacity
2) manufacturing - skills

- i) poor manufacturing sector - India's manufacturing sector is poorly developed and therefore cannot absorb excess farm labour
- ii) unskilled workers - Much of the additional workers in farming sector are uneducated and unskilled. This makes them unemployable.

avoid Poor curriculum

iii) Broken education system - this results in lower employability of graduates and lack of industry relevant skills

iv) Poor ^{stringent} labour laws - this inhibits labour-intensive manufacturing and competitive expansion of industries

v) low growth in agriculture - this results in poor income and employability of agricultural labourers.

These problems have resulted in unemployment being persistent in India.

To tackle these problems, alternative policy measures that need be taken are:

i) Expand manufacturing sector as this sector has highest employment elasticity

ii) Solve the skilling requirement of the vast farm labour

iii) Improve labour laws of the country to facilitate labour-intensive manufacturing

iv) Pursue TFA in services that aid utilizing India's vast educated talent pool of engineers.

As these measures are being pursued

through Make-in-India, Skill India and labour law reforms by states. Innovative steps like Hand-up India and

Start-up India can also help solve the problem in the program

Address 1st part better
↳ Res. good.

Good end.

Day 25

27/09/2019

5.)

Drones are unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) that are used to ~~can~~ perform difficult tasks or tasks that cannot involve humans directly. They are a evolving technology that are finding applications in wide variety of settings. Controlled from ground

The benefits of using drone technology are as follows:

i) In war and battlefield they offer unmatched capabilities in terms of technical intelligence, enhanced reach and reduced human casualty

ii) In agricultural settings it offers ~~also~~ enhanced abilities like crop damage assessment with objectivity, application in pesticide spraying

iii) In urban fields it aids traffic management

iv) In disaster management it offers aerial reconnaissance and can act as a mitigation device delivering aid.

v) Other benefits include its low cost, easy deployability, multiple usage etc.

But there are some downfalls too to its usage. These are:

i) It can be misused towards antisocial ~~stereo~~ activities
ex. drugs peddling across neighbourhoods in US

change
looks
like
'applications'
not
benefits

Good
but
provide
current
examples

ii) It could enhance reach of terrorists activities

iii) Being an unregulated technology that can be easily brought in the grey market,

drones are deadly devices

iv) They can also endanger public security and safety while flying close to airports, defence installations etc.

The DGCA recently issued draft guidelines for operation of UAVs. These include

- list of legitimate purposes for which drones can be used

- creation of a Unique Identification Number (UIN) to license usage

- guidelines that notify areas of operation.

These guidelines strike a balance between

necessary usage and regulate misuse. It will aid the usage of the technology and aid innovation.

In light of ATCR membership that India secured, the draft UAV guidelines will aid development of

the technology.

integrate

guideline → how it will tackle

- 2) - -
- 3) - -
- 4) - -
- 1

4.)

Cooper
 The APEC is an economic grouping consisting of 21 member countries in the Asia-Pacific region. India has been seeking membership to the group since 1991. The major hurdles that India faces in becoming an APEC member are:

- i) Resistance from the grouping's members with regards to India's inclusion
 ex. USA
- ii) India does not fit into the definition of Asia-Pacific
- iii) Norms of liberalization of APEC economies are far ahead as compared to India
- iv) Self-imposed moratorium on newer membership expansion since 1997

The APEC holds significant importance for it to seek membership. The importance is on following grounds:

- i) Evolving concept of Indo-Pacific that gives central role to India as a part of the combined region.

ii) By being a member India can seek a position to guide evolution of the regional trade negotiations like FTAAP.

iii) It could lead to India being a member of evolving mega-FTAs like TPP, TTIP.

iv) It could aid India to expand its markets into Asia-Pacific region and utilize its service sector advantages.

v) It could aid in India's Act East Policy and help forge better relations.

vi) In light of evolving initiatives like Trilateral Highway Project, APEC membership will aid further expansion.

All these indicate that India has significant benefits to gain by being a member of APEC. India needs to pursue this aggressively.

→ Good answer

3-)

India has a significant urban population that constitutes 31.7% of the total. World Bank estimates that this will grow rapidly to constitute over 50% of the population in coming 3 decades. To ensure this transformation occurs in stable manner, rural areas need to be transformed into urban areas.

The need to this are manifold and as follows:

- i) It will aid stabilize urbanization.
- ii) It will ~~aid~~ growth ~~without~~ of cities without being skewed towards metropolitan areas
- iii) It will aid to control growth of peri-urban areas and control growth of urban sprawl
- iv) It will lead to uniform regional development
- v) It will lead to sustainable economic development and inclusive growth as ~~rural~~ rural areas become ~~urban~~ urban.

Critically
analyze

the need
What will happen if not done

[points like answer to explain the need.]

v) It will aid industrialization and transfer excess farm labour to industries.

The attractiveness of Indian economy to investment opportunities is based upon a sustainable urban growth. For this transforming rural areas into urban is essential.

Towards this the various initiatives undertaken are

i) Jayaprakash Narayan Urban Mission

ii) SMART Cities schemes

iii) AMRUT scheme

iv) Conversion of tehsils towns to statutory towns

v) Development of Industrial corridors like

DMIC, Chennai-Bengaluru etc.

↳ PURA ↳

These initiatives will aid development of

rural areas ~~and~~ into urban areas in a

stable and inclusive manner.

— Good answer

Spirit of sport → as a rule-based game of physical ~~set~~ and mental capacities

PED → negation of natural capacity

corruption of sport and basic tenets

∴ violation

grit, determination, human efforts → win/lose

- Maria Sharapova
- Narsingh Yadav
- Russia

Ethical concerns →

health of sports
instrument of state politics

- spirit of sport violated
- unfair means
- focus of winning team participation
- focus on medicines than athletes

	<p>Handwritten notes in a central column, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is extremely faint and illegible.</p>	

Day 26

28/09/2016

3.)

The government recently liberalized norms for FDI in many sectors including animal rearing, farm sector etc. It also eased norms of domestic content requirement in single brand retail.

An improved FDI environment has many impact on the economy. Among the positive effect to the economy are:

- i) It would give push to the initiative of the government like Make-in-India.
- ii) It would aid capital expenditure and result in multiplier effect on the economy as a whole.
- iii) It would aid newer technologies and management practises to be incorporated into management of ~~industries~~ industries.
- iv) It would aid the creation of infrastructure too as infrastructure will see PPP through FDI.
- v) It will aid creation of domestic production capabilities that will aid

give reasons in short - will help better to connect to positive impacts.

self-sufficiency in sectors - like defence.

But all these impacts have negative impacts too to the target economy. These are:

i) It will result in enhanced outgo of investment gains of FDI

ii) It can result in reduced ability of indigenous firms to match competition

iii) It can lead to subversive practices like in defence

iv) Giving control of specific sectors like media, animal husbandry, farm sector to FDI - MNCs will result in poor employment in these sector in the long run.

v) It can result in loss of sovereignty as seen in BIT negotiations. ex. white industries case

vi) It leads to reduced revenue gains in the long run.

These impacts need to be mitigated in the long run to ensure that FDI adds positively to the Indian economy.

4.) The Economic Survey 2015-16 notes that banks are significantly stressed due to double repression of asset and liability side. This is worsened by the rising NPAs of the banking sector.

Bailing out the banks require capitalization of the banks. Also with application of Basel-III norms in the near future, banks require additional capital to be infused.

~~But~~ the budget targets a fiscal deficit target of 3.4% of GDP for 2016-17. Thus additional capitals for banks will come

- if FD - targets are breached
- welfare and capital expenditures are reallocated to banks.

To tackle the shortcomings of the banking sectors, on basis of PJ Nayak Committee report, the following banking reforms are being undertaken under 'Mission Indradhanush'

- 1) Appointment
- 2) Bank Board Bureau

- iii) Capitalization
- iv) De-stressing of assets
- v) ~~Empowerment~~ Empowerment
- vi) Framework of Accountability
- vii) Governance reforms.

These reforms together with the cleaning up of bank balance sheet will aid the bailing out of PSBs. Additional efforts like UPI, payment banks, small banks will aid creation of specific tailor-made initiative to improve banking system and distress core banks. ~~The ultimate~~

The ultimate aim of Mission Indradhanush is to take the banking sector's PSB reach levels of private sector banks.