

Test Code: 21099



FIAS – 2019 – GS 2H/6G/10E/12D

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GENERAL STUDIES

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Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION		
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile). 2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH. 3. All questions are compulsory. 4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. 5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. 6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. 7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.		
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Remarks:			Start Time 2.00	End Time 5.00	
			Mode Of Examination :		Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
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Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Q.1) "The recent judgement of the Supreme Court on Section 377 of IPC presented a new vision of equality that is truer and more faithful to the Constitution's transformative character." Comment. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The Supreme court of India in Nartej sing Johar case overturned its earlier opinion on criminality of ~~sex~~ homosexual relations and declared part of section 377 of IPC ultra vires.

Significance of the order:

- i. Granville Austin called Indian constitution 'a social document' to further a social revolution.
- ii. Judiciary has always been at the forefront of social justice bringing down barriers of caste, gender discrimination through liberal judgments.
Delhi High Court in Naz Foundation declared section 377 ultra vires.
- iii. Even Supreme court has been liberal in tune with constitutional character to

provide liberty, justice and 'dignity'.

ex: Declaring triple talaq illegal.

iv However in this case, the courts had earlier taken a procedural view that its the role of Parliament to amend IPC.

v In review petition court struck down 377 in so far it criminalises ~~same sex~~ sexual intercourse 'against the order of nature'.

vi Justice Indu Malhotra even went further & opined the society owes an apology to LGBTQ community.

Through its judicial activism, supreme court has continued transformation in tune with time. In similar judgment, courts also overturned 'adultery' as a crime.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.2) "Gender justice, as a value, seems to have become vulnerable to pragmatic politics." In light of the recent controversy, critically evaluate the statement.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

~~India is a greatly patriarchal~~

India is a highly patriarchal society and thus it requires drastic measures for gender justice such as

- a) Sati prohibition in 1829
- b) Vishakha guidelines
- c) IPC amendments post Nirbhaya with capital punishment for gang-rape

However gender justice has become vulnerable to political pragmatism.

i) opposition to Triple Tally Bill

ii) opposition to actively implement the Supreme court order in Sabrimala case

iii) inability to enact 108th constitutional amendment bill providing 33% reservation to women.

Thus India needs to look at Gender Justice in political non-binaries.

Some of the recent examples of ^{pragmatic} ~~non-discriminatory~~ revolutionary steps have been

- a) Ujjwala Yojana - providing cooking gas to women
- b) women centric National Rural Livelihood Mission.

India must go for a drastic action to weaken patriarchy beginning with 108th constitutional amendment bill.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.3) Special provisions given to various states and region in our constitution signifies the principle of federalism which is unique to India. Discuss.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Federalism implies balancing interests of individual states with that of broader national interest. In USA, it is achieved through strong & equally powerful states (politically).

Indian model of federalism is criticised as 'quasi federalism' [K.C. Wheare].

However in spite of a strong unitary bias, it does have a uniquely Indian concept of 'equality with positive discrimination' as follows:

- i) Jammu & Kashmir enjoyed special status until now under article 370.
- ii) Article 371 gives special status to Tribal States & North Eastern States with increased devolution of power.
- iii) Under 5th & 6th schedule, Governors are empowered to divert national laws to

certain areas and also provide for reducing developmental deficit.

iv The North Eastern states of Arunachal Pradesh & Mizoram have 'inner line permits' to protect outsider influences.

v Establishment of regional council also created a special tool within federal framework.
ex: Gorkhaland Regional Council.

Thus Indian federalism is not based on legal equality between states but promotes development through special provisions.

Feedback: (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.4) Reservations has become a mere tool for employment generation and power-sharing rather than a means of social justice as envisaged in the Constitution. Discuss with reference to reservation policy in India. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Reservations under Article (16)
of the constitution were envisaged as a tool
for social justice to cure:

- a) Social ills of ~~was~~ prohibiting education
& employment based on birth
- b) Improving socio-economic democracy
by treating 'unequals unequally'.

However, the reservation policy is criticised for
its transformation into a political tool :-

- i) The focus is now on 'dividing the pie'
rather than overall social justice.
- ii) 103rd constitution Amendment is criticised
for turning the original idea of reservation
on its head!
- iii) Increased political polarization over
reservation & so called upper castes demanding
reservation : ex: Patidar in Gujarat,
Masatha in Maharashtra

iv Courts had to regularly interfere and limit expansion of reservation.

Indira Sawhney judgment limits reservation to 50%.

Why it has become a tool for political power sharing?

i. Reservation seen as representation, and thus results in increased power of community.

ii. Prevents larger debate on social justice (or lack thereof) as criticised by Ashutosh Varshney.

iii. Also a result of economic stagnation and inability of private sector to ~~can~~ provide jobs.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.5) Do you agree that exposure to media especially social media has affected voting behaviour and political preferences in India? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The role of social media in elections has become prominent in recent years

- a) Barack Obama creatively used social media to engage young voters in 2008 campaign
- b) In 2016, Cambridge Analytica and Russian trolls are believed to have played a key role in tilting elections toward Donald Trump.

India has 118 cr telecom connections and nearly 36 cr social media users. Thus it is important to understand its impact.

i. It is believed that Bharatiya Janata Party has creatively used social media including PM Modi himself engaging 1st time voters.

ii. Unsubstantiated reports of 'Cambridge Analytica' working in India have also surfaced.

iii. However the impact on voting behaviour is difficult to gauge.

iv Indian political parties along with Facebook, twitter have significantly used 'WhatsApp' for enhancing their messages.

v However political commentators like Prakash Bhanu mehta believe that economic priorities, caste-religious mobilization and direct connect through party lines is more important than social media in influencing voter behaviour ~~write~~

In absence of scientific models to know voter preferences and approval ratings, it is difficult to gauge direct impact.

However India must learn from US experiments to make elections 'social media' proof. Election commission in 2019 general election has made a start in checking communal / hate news through model code of conduct.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.6) A special emphasis has been given to the private sector in the major health programs in India. Examine the role of the private sector in achieving the goal of a healthy India. What are the steps taken by the government in this regard?

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

The flagship program of Government 'Ayushman Bharat' provides road for private ~~hospit~~ sector in insurance coverage, thus outlining their importance:-

- i. Poor service delivery through public sector
- ii. PHCs as the place 'where people go to die'
- iii. Increasing focus of people towards private sector due to better infrastructure, better skilled doctors and results.
- iv. Investors now investing and creating chain of hospitals for better synergies & healthcare delivery.

Initiatives by government

- i. A Robust National Medical Commission Bill

- to regulate medical education in India.
- ii Provides a 'Board of ethics' to investigate complaints against malpractices.
- iii Increased involvement in healthcare delivery and immunization programs
 - Penta vaccine
 - Polio.
- iv NITI Aayog has called for a robust patient information management system to assist patients and prevent misuse of the data.

While India acknowledges the role of private sector, it must not neglect the public sector. Economist Kenneth Rogoff has shown inability of private sector driven model to provide public healthcare which is essentially 'a public good'

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.7) The recently amended the Motor Vehicle Act prioritises road safety by fixing accountability for not just an individual driving the vehicle but all the stakeholders involved in road safety. Comment. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The Motor vehicle Act amendments involve all the stakeholders as follows:

- i. Imposition of fine ~~for~~ on parents of underage children driving.
- ii. Restrictions on co-passengers to use safety i.e. helmets or seatbelts.
- iii. Provision for national level ambulance services for road accidents.
- iv. legal responsibility of all the commuters to help accident victims.

It moves beyond individual to a collective safety approach. It is necessary for India where nearly 15,000 people die due to road accidents every year.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.8) India's need for energy security and connectivity to Eurasia, requires India's engagement in the Central Asia region not only at the bilateral level but also at a collective level. Analyse. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Central Asia is considered as India's 'extended neighbourhood' and is extremely important to India. ✓

- a) Energy security : Resource rich region due to Uranium, Natural gas deposits.
- b) connectivity : Important in connecting Europe, Russia.
- c) strategic : stability in Afghanistan, counter terrorism.

India has taken numerous bilateral initiatives including high level engagements. It has entered into energy security agreement with Kazakhstan & Kyrgyzstan. However India needs to go beyond bilateral approach towards collective engagement. :-

- i India doesn't have direct access to central Asia due to Pak occupied Kashmir.
- ii The region as a whole has less than \$10 Billion trade with India.

iii Important to manage ethnic, religious & political faultlines.

Recent initiatives:

- i India joining Ashgabat agreement.
- ii Increased focus on INSTC i.e. International North South Transport corridor.
- iii India joining SCO
- iv India - central Asia forum inaugural ministerial meeting held in January 2019.

India can also ~~is~~ work out innovative strategies like 'Air Corridor' and incorporating 'Iran' in its central Asia strategy.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.9) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation with China and Russia as dominant powers have different views on defining terrorism, views about India - Pakistan bilateral issue and engagement with western countries. In this context, discuss how India can use SCO as an effective platform to address her needs.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

India & Pakistan joined SCO as full members recently. As a bloc SCO does not allow discussing bilateral disputes.

However India can use SCO for advancing her interests as follows:

- i. creating synergies in counter terrorism operations between India & China, Russia & even Pakistan
- ii. SCO could play important role in stabilizing Afghanistan post US withdrawal.
- iii. Involving Pakistan & creating economic dependencies through collective security - TAPI pipeline.
- iv. Russia uses India to balance China so SCO key to increase India's profile in the region.
- v. Strengthening bilateral relations with the central Asian countries.

vi Promoting India's strategic interests through forward troop deployment.

- India is rumored to have an air base (or access to) in Tajikistan.

SCO is critical for India to advance her geopolitical interests and balance rising Chinese dominance in the region.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.10) India's role as 'Net Security Provider' in the Indian Ocean region to be effective requires a productive multilateral forum. Evaluate. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

C Raja Mohan believes that

India should reclaim its traditional role as 'Net Security Provider' in the region' as it was during British rule.

It is in the backdrop of increasing importance of 'Indo Pacific' as the dominant narrative to define Indian ocean.

Need for a multilateral forum:-

- i. India alone is unable to provide military security in the region
- ii. wide gap betⁿ comprehensive national power of India & china.
- iii. Already there are multilateral forums present
 - Indian ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)
 - ~~IOR OCS~~ - IOR OIC

iv Newly emerging forums like QUAD involving USA, Japan, India & Australia.

v Need to balance conflicting interests of US & China in 'Asia' which is the 'new centre of gravity' for global geopolitics [Robert Kaplan]

Thus India should proactively engage & expand forum like BIMSTEC & ASEAN Regional Forum to enhance and retain its role.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.11) Governance in India has aligned with the ideologies of 'major political system'. Critically examine in the post-independence era. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

India follows Parliamentary model of democracy thus the ideas of ruling party have significant impact on governance.

Rajni Kothari called the era between 1947 - 1967 as the 'Congress system'. Thus governance was oriented toward ideals of Nehruvian socialism.

- i. Increased role of state in economy
- ii. self reliance & import substitution.

Thus India laid foundations of 'broad overarching state'.

Later under Indira Gandhi, the governance developed into a 'nanny state' with License permit Raj.

The years of coalition governments saw relative weakening of union govt & increased role of state govt through regional parties. It promoted federalism.

During UPA rule in 21st century India saw another 'social welfare' dominated governance through MGNREGS, NPSA etc.

The drastic change in governance can be seen after 2014, however it would be too early to call it 'BJP system'

- i. Focus on 'minimum government, maximum governance'
- ii. Muscular foreign policy.
- iii. Federalism becoming important with cooperative federalism and NITI Aayog.
- iiii. Greater focus on national integration through movement towards Uniform civil code.

While the philosophy of governance changes with ruling party, the core has remained constant due to

- a) Strong, independent civil service
- b) Role of Judiciary.
- c) media & public pressure.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.12) Cooperatives in India are important as they provide sustainable development to the agriculturists by developing infrastructure and providing support facilities. Discuss the role played by NCDC in promotion of cooperatives. Also, examine the challenges faced by the cooperative sector in India. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Forming cooperatives is a fundamental right in India as added to Article 19 through 99th amendment.

Importance in Agriculture:-

- i. creating value chains
ex: AMUL
- ii Providing income support
- cooperative markets.
- iii Developing infrastructures
- cooperative Banks, sugar factories and milk processing units.

NCDC or national commission on Development of cooperatives has played a key role:-

- i providing initial investment
- ii technical expertise.

- iii Helping get market access
- iv promoting young farmers
 - Yuva Kishi Sakshar Prasthana Yojana.
- v providing linkages to state authorities and other cooperatives.

Problems & challenges faced by cooperatives:-

- i Inability to achieve financial self sufficiency.
- ii Higher dependency on govt. grants.
- iii Politicisation of cooperatives
- iv Inability to develop new markets or products → stagnancy.
- v Inability to expand in regions of distress leading to farmer suicides.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.13) The doctrine of Constitutional morality has resulted in various progressive decisions by the Supreme Court but it has the potential to result in Judicial over-reach. Examine. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

The supreme court of India is one of the strongest judiciaries in the world, due to

- a) Security of tenure, service conditions.
- b) Responsibility to uphold the constitution
- c) Enforce Fundamental Rights. [Art 32]
- d) Evolve its own procedures & special leave petitions.

Through creative interpretation of constitutional provisions and expanding jurisdiction under article 142, the supreme court has given numerous progressive decisions :-

i) It struck down allocation of 24 spectrum and cancelled 122 licenses due to procedural illegalities in the '24 scandal'.

ii) The supreme court has consistently taken a progressive stand for women's rights.
- Vishakha guidelines to prevent sexual harassment at workplace.

- Protecting muslim women through right to alimony (Shayara Bano) case & declaring triple talaq ultra vires.

iii It has struck down many socially ill practices

- strictures on Khap panchayat
- Allowing entry to women in Sabrimala.

iv Expanded its jurisdiction through

- Public interest litigation
- Article 142 and directing mitigation of Air pollution in NCR.
- setting up committee to bring back black money.

However this exercise of judicial activism is not without judicial overreach. The Supreme court is often accused of ~~over~~ going beyond its mandate of 'adjudicator' of disputes'.

i SC is de facto running BCCI through Committee of Arbitrators.

ii SC has given some unimplementable decisions.

like banning fire crackers after 8 PM or else SHO to be held guilty of contempt.

iii There is lack of consistency in ~~judicial~~ jurisprudence & ideology is seen to have played a role in judgements.

- SC on homosexuality
- Recent judgment on ~~to~~ enforcing

national anthem.

"Judicial activism, for the want of better word is personal" - constitutional expert B.N. Rao. Therefore judiciary itself must be very selective and ~~to~~ limit its own involvement.

A good example was Justice Antonin Scalia of US Supreme court known for textualism.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.14) Does the anti-defection law serve any purpose? Critically Analyse.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

The anti-defection law and 10th schedule of the constitution was brought in to prevent political "immigration" and horse trading.

Its key provisions:

- i. Defines 'defection' thoroughly.
- ii. Any elected MP/MLA to loose his seat if he ~~for~~ changed political party or refuses to vote or votes against party whips.
- iii. Speaker of the house to have exclusive power on deciding the defection, and bars interference by courts.

Recently, vice president and chairman Rajya Sabha M Venkaiah Naidu called for a larger public debate on Anti-defection law.

Criticism of the law:

- i. It subjugates people's will beneath

Party discipline.

ii Prevents elected MP/MLA from exercising his freedom of choice and will of the people.

iii Speaker ~~is under~~ has no time limitation to adjudicate & speaker's role has been criticised as partisan
ex:- Karnataka crisis in 2019

iv Anti defection has not addressed larger political corruption & dishonesty.

v Prohibits 'retail' defection, allowing 'wholesale' defection
However, there are significant achievements and serves a definite purpose:

i It has reduced political jumping described as "anyaram gayaram" culture.

ii It has instilled a more political discipline in legislators.

iii It has prevented horse trading and influence of money, especially during no confidence votes.

However, time has come to improve the law. some suggestions are:-

- i Law talks of setting up procedure for disqualification. It hasn't been outlined yet, which should be done.
- ii Setting up strict time limit for speakers decision making.
- iii Establishing mechanism for MP/MLA to seek speakers permission to vote against whip.

While the anti-defection law acts as a restriction on freedom of legislators, one can not forget the situation when the law did not exist!

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.15) Discuss the challenges faced by Central Information Commission in implementing the Right to Information Act (RTI Act). Critically analyse the provisions altered in RTI Amendment Act 2019. Also, suggest policy measures to strengthen the flow of information to the public. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Right to Information was seen as a revolutionary step that empowered citizens ^{to ask questions} and made the government answerable to them.

CIC or ~~state~~ ^{central} Information Commission is pan India level legal body tasked with upholding the law and adjudicate as appellate tribunal.

challenges faced by CIC

- i) ~~to~~ lack of staff including non appointment of Information Commissioners.
- ii) Extremely high level of pendency due to obstructionist approach of bureaucracy.
- iii) Inability to enforce its jurisdiction.
- iv) Inability to bring political parties, Judiciary under RTI.

The RTI Amendment Act 2019 alters the provisions of original Act as follows:

- i. Downgrades the status of chief Information Commissioner from Judges of Supreme Court to that of UPSC members.
- ii. Removes restrictions on security of tenure & service conditions for CIC members.

Analysis

- i. The government has ~~say~~ defended it as a procedural matter to remove inconsistencies.
- ii. However opposition & civil society have criticised it as regarding the soul & spirit of the Act.
- iii. Downgrading CIC and easing the security of tenure will impact the independence and authority of CIC. It will reduce to just one of the Departments of Govt.
- iv. It will also ~~insert~~ give scope for easy removal of a contary Information Commissioner.

Policy measures to strengthen flow of information

- i Extensive investment in data storing and processing of Govt machinery.
- ii Complete overhaul and mandatory e office.
- iii More pro-active disclosures as per RTI.
- iv Increased manpower to handle RTI workload.
- v Linking RTI pendency-disposal to Annual Performance Reports.

The spirit of RTI needs to be strengthened ~~to~~ as it is crucial to participatory & deliberative democracy.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.16) What do you understand by Non-Communicable Diseases? Bring out the socio-economic determinants of Non-Communicable diseases in India. Enumerate the measures taken by the government in this regard. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Non communicable diseases are 'life style' diseases borne out improper metabolism. They include obesity, heart ailments, Blood pressure, Diabeteses and also ~~an~~ Cancer.

Socio economic determinants

- i Earlier believed to 'rich man's disease', now widely prevalent among middle class & even poor.
- ii Major causes include
 - Improper nutrition i.e. overnutrition of carbohydrates resulting in deficiency of protein and micronutrients.
 - Lack of exercise and physical movement
 - Increasing alcohol consumption, smoking, pollution (indoor & outdoor).

iii) Social determinants

- ~~Healthy habits are~~
- Neglect of traditional food (pulses, millets) in favour of fast food.
- Increased urbanization and lack of public spaces for exercising, relaxing.
- Increased competition & stress levels.

iv) Economic determinants

- ~~Low~~ Inability to purchase quality food including pulses, ~~meats~~ eggs, meat which is protein rich
- Poor nutritional levels for urban migrants.

India faces a double burden of non-communicable & communicable diseases. Steps taken by Govt.

include:

a) i) Universal and targeted healthcare

- Ayushman Bharat with 10 cr families to have upto 5L secondary, tertiary insurance
- Establishing 1.5 lakh Health & wellness centres.

- Enhancing National Security Action plan outlay.

ii Focus on nutritional security

- National Nutrition mission
- National Food Security Act.

iii Behavioural change

- 'Eat healthy' campaign by FSSAI
- Aim to eliminate transfat by 2020.
- reduce salt, oil intake by 30% by 2022.
- 'Aaj se thoda Kam' campaign.

Lastly, increasing awareness through 'Fit India' campaign was launched recently.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.17) Unhealthy competition between self-help group (SHG) and Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI) reduces the effectiveness of both. Discuss. How can creating a synergy between the two help in addressing development challenges at the sub-district level? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Panchayat Raj institutions are established under 73rd constitution Amendment for promoting 'Grassroot political democracy', while Self Help Groups promote Grassroot 'socio-economic democracy'

The reasons for competition:

- i. Schemes for providing direct assistance to the SHG & PRIs, independently.
 ex: MGNREGS - PRI
 NRLM Aajivika - SHG.
- ii. Economic development often results in political development and vice-versa. Thus both compete for economic-political power in traditional rural power dynamics.
- iii. SHGs are increasing expanding delivery of Govt schemes

Such as Mid Day meal & ICDS.

It weakens both SHGs as well as PRLs due to increased enmity and reduced focus on service delivery.

At the same time creating synergies between them will help 'developmental deficit' as follows:-

- i. Integrating SHG is Panchayat Raj setup through representation in Gram Sabha, Ward committees.
- ii. Involving SHGs in Service delivery through PRLs such as MGNREGA & Awas Yojana
- iii. Involving Panchayat Raj in expanding SHG works, providing funds and conducting audits of SHGs.
- iv. Meaningful political & financial devolution to PRLs by state governments.
noted economist Vijay Kelkar has called

for creating a 'Consolidated Fund of Panchayat Raj' to promote Bottom up approach of development.

As seen in Kerala (Kudumbashree) and Maharashtra (Jalyukta Shivar), synergies between SHG & PRIs have a great potential for rural development transformation.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.18) The provisions of the Fifth and Sixth Schedule of the constitution has given some essential powers to the lower levels of government in order to cater to the needs of the tribal community. Discuss while examining the modern-day challenges faced by the institutions set up under the fifth and the sixth schedule.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

India has 200 million strong tribal community, most of whom are marginalized

Powers under 5th schedule:

- i. Establishment of special tribal zones.
- ii. Governor empowered to limit a law to tribal areas.
- iii. Governor to direct state govt for higher outlay to these areas.

Under 6th schedule:

- i. Forming autonomous district council
- ii. Greater political devolution, acceptance of tribal rites, customs.
- iii. Higher economic devolution through taxation powers.

However there are significant challenges:

- i As outlined by Khera committee, devolution of power hasn't taken place on ground.
- ii District & subdistrict administration is the biggest hurdle.
- iii Lack of scientific data and assessment of schemes for tribals.
- iv Poor political participation & irregular elections.
- v obstructionist stands by appointed members in District councils
- vi secessionist / insurgency movements in tribal areas that hamper development.

Recent initiatives to overcome them

- i Proposed Amendment to 6th schedule with greater devolution of powers.

ii Schemes such as

- Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana.
- Aadi Mahotsav.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.19) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) becoming a reality will help in furthering the aims and objectives of India's own Act-East Policy. Analyse. Also, enumerate the challenges that had hindered the formation of RCEP.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

India expanded its 'Look East' policy to 'Act East policy' with increased emphasis on economic integration, trade & investment facilitation and strategic cooperation.

It helps India in creating favourable economic conditions in its neighbourhood to foster domestic growth and also balance rising Chinese dominance in the region.

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is the multilateral forum of 10 nations of ASEAN, India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia & New Zealand.

How RCEP helps India's Act East:

1. Expanding economic partnerships and exports during the period of 'trade wars' and

protectionist policies.

- ii RCEP will include nearly 40% of world's population and 30% of GDP. Thus giving a boost to India's economic power.
- iii ASEAN is already India's focal point for Act East as outlined by PM Modi in Shangri-La dialogue last year. RCEP as ASEAN centric trading bloc increases India's engagement greatly.
- iv It allows establishment of a 'rule based order' in emerging narrative of 'Indo-Pacific'

challenges:

- i Divergence of views between India, China & Australia - New Zealand over key components of agreement.
- ii Fears of a dominant China.
- iii Overall gloom and protectionism in

the world. Even Japan - South Korea are involved in a trade war over historic battlines.

RCEP can very well rise as a counterweight to weakening global trade governance regimes. The recent ministerial summit ^{has} expressed its confidence over earlier finalization of RCEP.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.20) Elaborate on the contribution of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Sushma Swaraj towards India's foreign policy. Also, discuss the changing dynamics of India's foreign policy over the years. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Foreign policy is the result of overall national security objectives and pursuits of national security. However the foreign policy in India has been shaped by Prime ministers and Foreign ministers greatly.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee:

- i. Through Pokhran -II, he established India as a nuclear weapon state. Later through extensive collaboration with global leaders, established credentials as 'responsible nuclear state' through nuclear doctrine & no first use policy
- ii. Took extreme risk in mending relations with Pakistan in spite of Kargil & attack on Indian Parliament. It paved way for further talks & negotiations.

iii He reoriented India's foreign policy towards greater focus on USA calling it 'India's natural ally'. At the same time he was instrumental in establishing Annual India-Russia dialogue which completed 20 years in 2019.

iv Vajpayee was crucial in creating the post of 'National Security Advisor' & appointed Brijesh Mishra as 1st NSA thus enhancing role of security in foreign policy.

Sushma Swaraj

i She is widely regarded as able administrator and 'steady hand' in foreign policy formulations

ii Extensive outreach to the diaspora through direct contacts, 'Twitter diplomacy' and rescuing stranded Indians abroad including Pakistan.

- iii key role in changing Indian Foreign policy engagements with
- Israel [PM, President of India visited Israel 1st time]
 - Nepal - 1st ever joint Forum meeting
 - Central Asia - 1st India - Central Asia. Forum meeting

Belonging to same political party, Bajpayee & Swaraj firmly believed that time has come for India to assert itself & achieve the rightful place in the world, and therefore are widely respected by the opposition as well as global diplomatic community.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Mentor Feedback Questions

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 3
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 5

Test Goal

1

 2

 3

Outcomes

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Marking Scheme

Marks	Good	Average	Below Average
10 Marker	3.75 – 5.0	3.0 – 3.5	< 3.0
15 Marker	5.75 – 7.0	4.0 – 5.5	< 4.0

*Subject to change without prior notice.

For any suggestions and/or grievances regarding evaluation, please mail to :
asif@forumias.academy

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