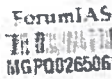


Test Code: CA001

FIAS – 2020 – CA01

		<h1>ForumIAS</h1> <h2>ACADEMY</h2>	
GENERAL STUDIES			
Name of Candidate		SUSAWAL JAGGA	
Email Id.		Roll No.	1910056467
Mobile No.		Date:	

Time Allowed: One and Half Hours

Maximum Marks: 125

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION	
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained		
1			<p>1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Email, Roll No. and Mobile).</p> <p>2. There are TEN questions printed in ENGLISH.</p> <p>3. All questions are compulsory.</p> <p>4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.</p> <p>7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.</p>	
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Total Marks:				
Remarks:			Start Time	End Time
			Mode Of Examination :	Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
			ECN CODE:	Evaluation Date:

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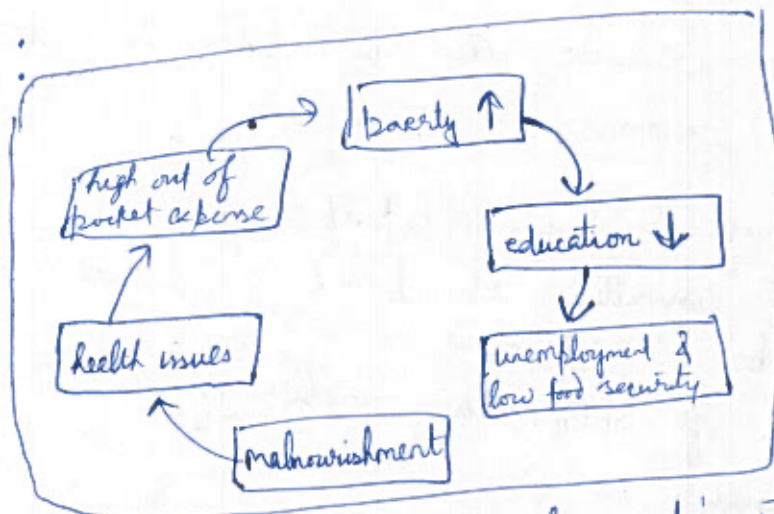
Q.1) More than twenty-five years since the launch of Mid-Day Meal Scheme, India is ranked low on human capital index. In this context examine the issues that make the success of Mid-Day Meal Scheme elusive.

(10 Marks/150 Words)

Following the directives of Art 47 of Constitution of India, Govt introduced Mid-day Meal scheme in 1990's with the following objectives :

1. to enhance nutritional status of children
2. to increase enrollment rate in schools
3. to bring social harmony

Importance :



To break the above vicious cycle, govt's intervention was required and hence the scheme. MDSM scheme has enhanced the nutritional status, increased enrollment rates and helped decrease burden on poor.

However there have been a lot of concerns?

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- ① Capability Trap: The state govt have not been able to do even the basic tasks properly
- ② Lack of infra: The teachers of school have been given the dual responsibility.
- ③ Corruption: CAG report stated siphoning off of funds
- ④ Lack of hygiene: Multiple reports in recent past showed poisonous substances in food
- ⑤ Lack of food grains: Untimely and delayed delivery by CG

The following measures can be taken to address the current concerns:-

- ① As per Planning Commission Report:
 - Inspection Committee at block and district level should be empowered
 - participation of SHG's and mothers of children in food preparation
- ② SGI's should be more proactive. In Rashtriya Swasthya Case (2013), S/C held that states like AP are not taking the scheme seriously.

Conclusion: The adoption and implementation of scheme is a welcome step. However more cogent efforts required to improve India's ranking in Human Capital Index.

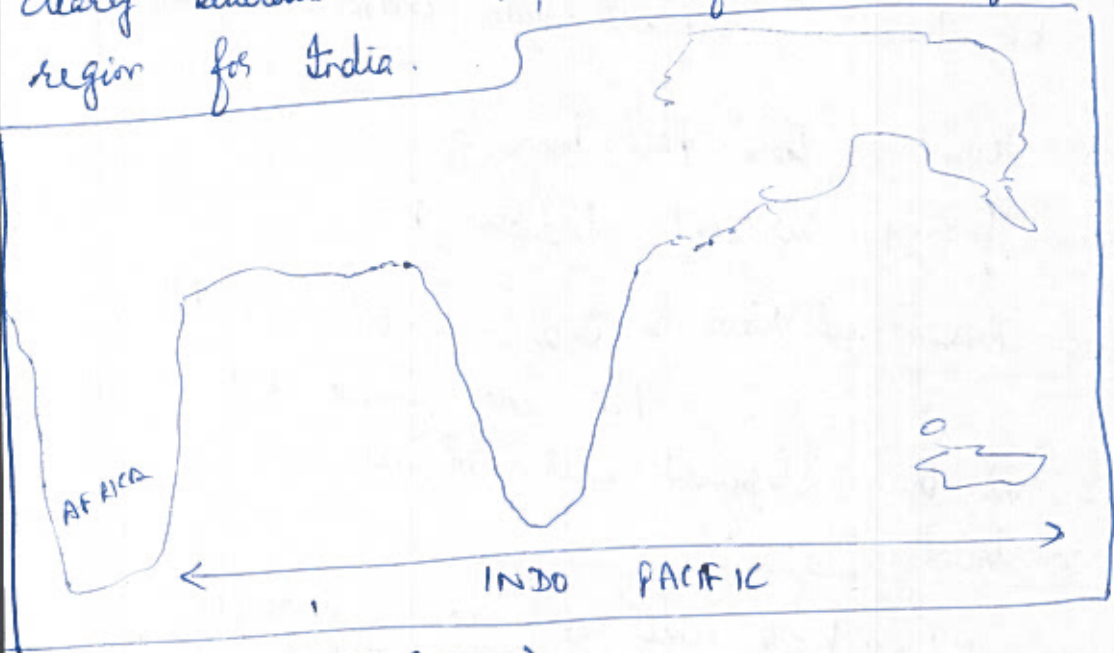


Q.2) India's Foreign Policy is exploring new avenues in existing ties. Examine with respect to recent development in the Indo-Pacific region.

(10 Marks/150 Words)

NAP
Pak
multi
AE, AF, I-Pacif
Map
P-R
AS, RCEP, AFE
I-R
UNGA
I-Pacif
I-Pacif
I-C

India's Foreign Policy shift from Look East → Act East → Act Far East
clearly elucidate the importance of Indo-Pacific region for India.



ACT EAST POLICY (2014)

PM Modi's first year saw the advent of Act East Policy with clear emphasis on Neighbourhood.
And \$75 bn currency swap agreement with Japan
• \$1mn LoC each to all Pacific countries at recent UNGA sidelines meet.
• Undergoing negotiations for RCEP

ACT FAR EAST POLICY (2019)

20th Annual Bilateral Summit b/w India-Russia,

PM announced AFE:

- more engagement with Far East of Russia (Vladivostok)
- \$ 1 bn LOC
- sea route: Chennai → Vladivostok

Concerns: However there have been a lot of challenges facing current Indian FP:

1. China-Russia-Pak Nexus: India's relations with Pak and China are strained and their alignment with Russia is not constructive outcome.

2. Trade: India's trade with Russia is meagre \$ 11 bn and huge deficit of \$ 50 bn with China

3. India-Africa: China has been playing a dominant role and despite ~ 10 bn \$ LOC by India, things have not been great.

Way forward:

- ① Balancing US-Russia, to avoid alignment with China and Pak
- ② Improving domestic economy to boost trade and exports
- ③ Using Indian diaspora to improve relations



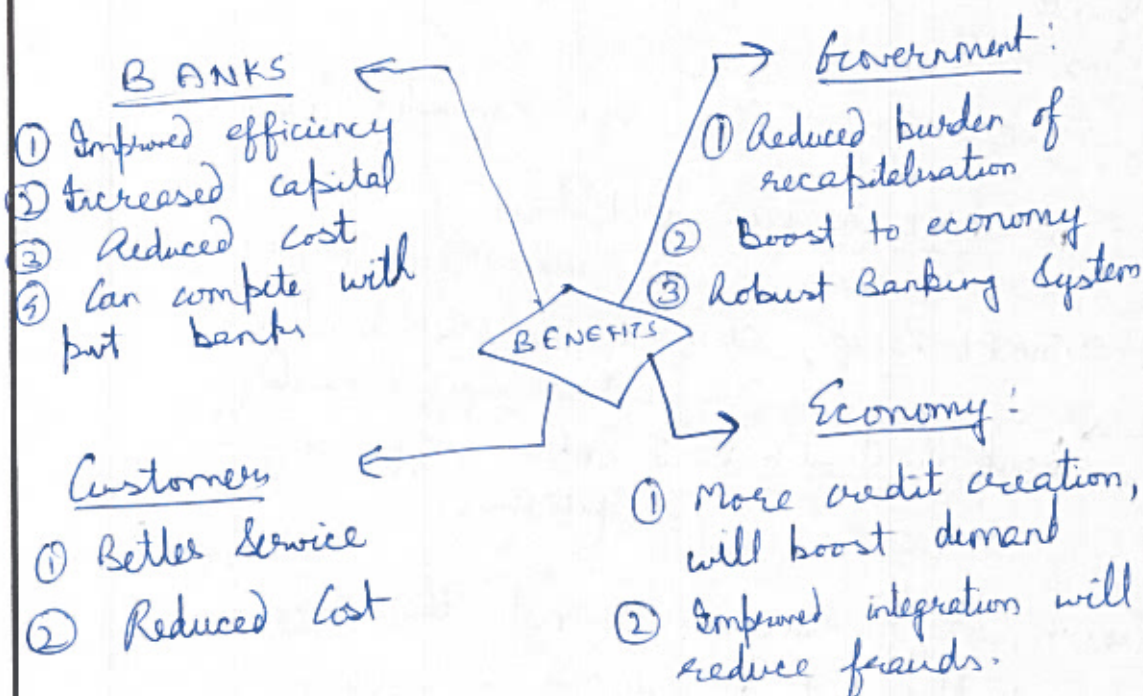
Q.3) For inclusive development, we need banks with strong national presence, increased global reach and enhanced capacity to lend. In light of the above statement, examine the consolidation of India's Banking sector.

(10 Marks/150 Words)

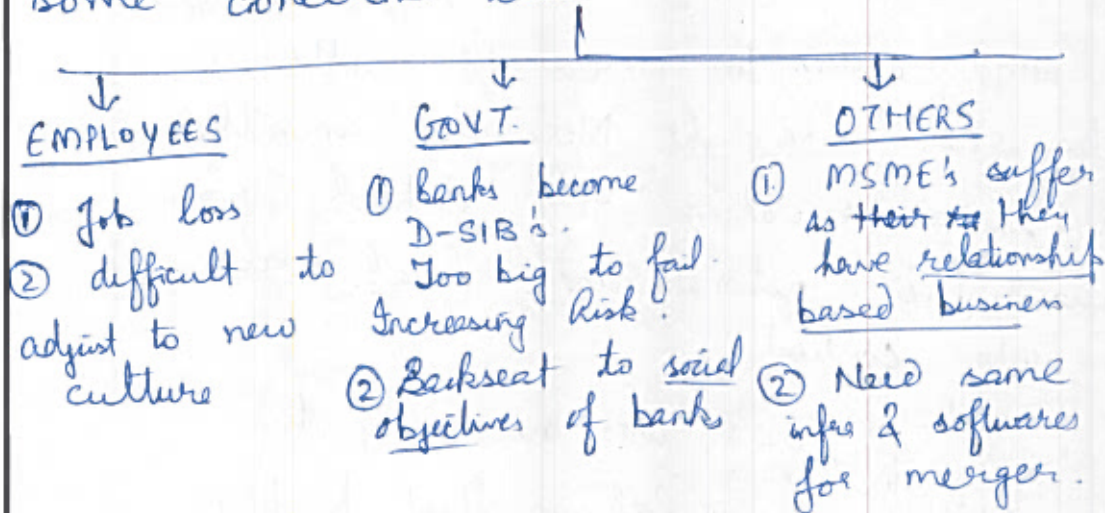
Recent announcement to merge 10 PSB's to 4 entities has brought Narsimham Committee (1991)'s recommendation to establish inter-national level, national and local level banks into context.

The merger of PSB's was necessary due to rising NPA's, Twin Balance Sheet Problem, inefficient Governance and sluggish economy

The conceived benefits are:

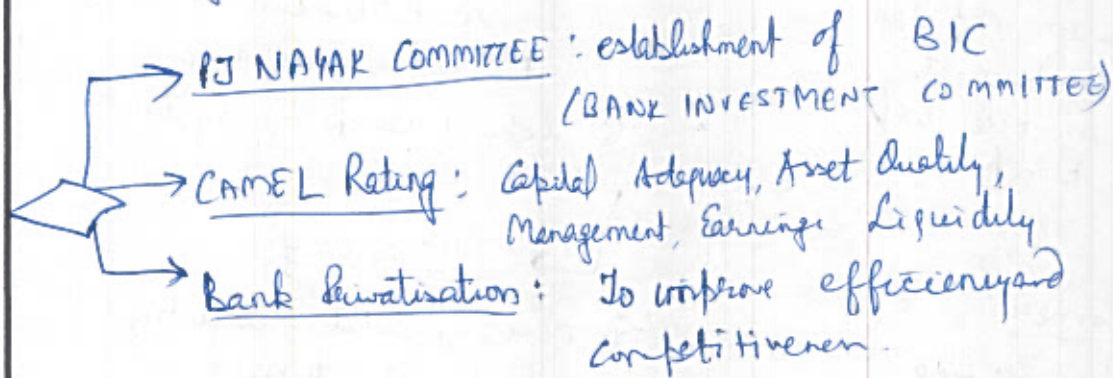


However, sceptics abound, there have been some concerns also:



WAY FORWARD:

- ① The bank merger is a welcome step, however it should be accompanied by governance reforms also
- ② The government can also consider following?



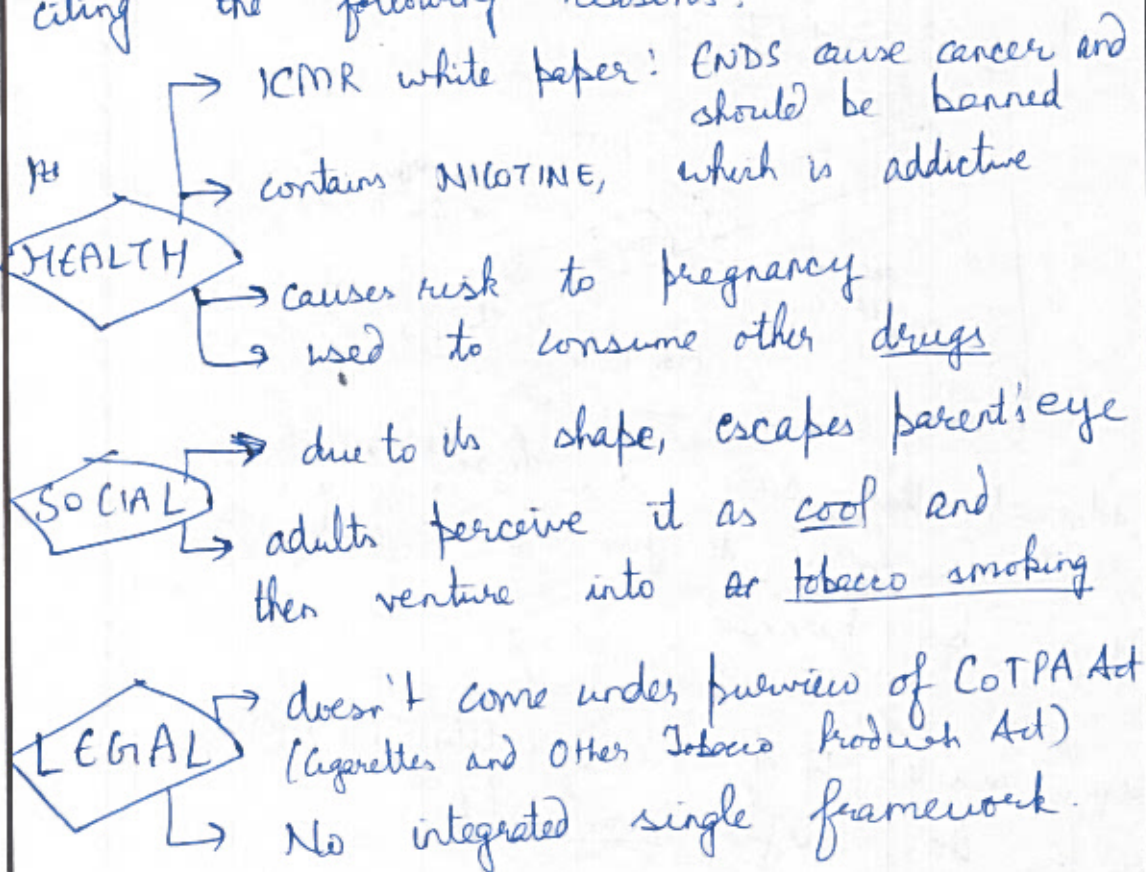
Conclusion: Bank Mergers is not the silver bullet but an initiation of many other reforms required.



Q.4) Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) are considered as a technology with the potential to be a true vaccine for smoking has found a way to spread like a virus. Describe briefly its impact on the society and the reason behind its ban in India.

(10 Marks/150 Words)

The Govt has recently banned e-cigarettes (ENDS), citing the following reasons:

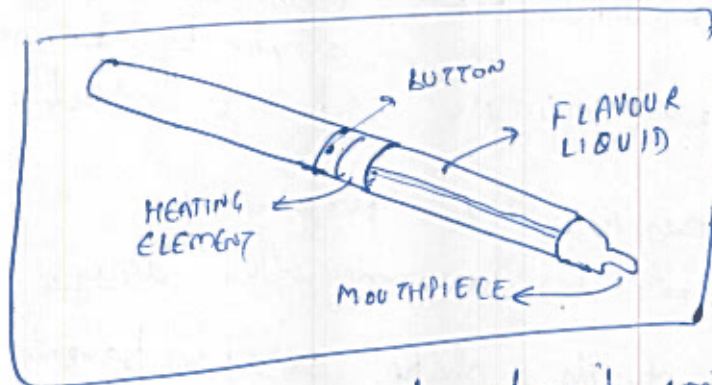


It has been welcomed by many sections of the society, due to following reasons:

- Improves health ecosystem
- saves adults from menace of smoking
- prevents youth from being misguided.

However certain sections of society have been outwising the ban:

1. e-cigarettes, help quit smoking and are not carcinogenic



They advocate that since it doesn't contain tobacco & uses liquid to give same feeling, shouldn't be banned.

- ② Illegal availability of a commodity is more harmful than legal availability
- ③ Ethical Dilemma: govt is largest shareholder of ITC

Conclusion: ~~Govt~~ ^{Govt} can consider regulation of ENDS, as done in UK, to prevent its misuse rather than a blanket ban. Further spurs should be promoted so that adults are prudent enough to leave, rather than govt. ban.



Q.5) What is water use efficiency? Discuss the role of micro -irrigation in increasing the water use efficiency?

(10 Marks/150 Words)



Q.6) Indian federalism is neither based on a "compact between states" nor do all states in India have one-kind of relationship with Centre. In light of the statement above examine the recent development in India's federalism.

(15 Marks/250 Words)

India is unitary in spirit and federal in nature. India has adopted Canadian Model of federalism, where a strong Centre exists.

India's federalism is referred to as asymmetric federalism due to following reasons:

- special status to Schedule 5 and Schedule 6 states
- special status to Jammu and Kashmir (now withdrawn)
- Section Article 371, 371A-J.

The recent abrogation of Art 370 and bifurcation of state of Jammu and Kashmir to Ladakh and JK (with Assembly), has again sparked debate on India's federalism and current wave of renewed nationalism. The major concerns raised are:

1. President Rule: Since the recent action to abrogate 370 was taken when President Rule was in force, which means that the state power of assembly has also been exercised by the Parliament is criticised.

② Bifurcation: Article 3 requires seeking state's view before altering the state's status. Again view of Governor (who is an agent of Centre) is not acceptable and is considered unconstitutional.

③ Doctrine of Colourable Legislation:
The abrogation, which in most likely cases, would not have happened, had assembly been in place, has been done by indirectly means.

④ Constituent Assembly: ~~§~~ Art 370 mentioned the concurrence of Constituent assembly to be taken, however, for JK, it was amended to be read as legislative assembly.

⑤ Amendment of constitution using Presidential Order.

⑥ RTI Amendment: The recent amendment in RTI, where Cb get power to appoint and decide term of state info. Commissioners, is again against federalism.

Amendments to Motor Vehicle Act are also considered an attack on federalism.

However, there are reasons and where Centre had the power and circumstances to undertake the steps:

1. Abrogation of 370: Since 370 confers power upon Govt to amend modify and apply Constitution of India on JK and under 356 power is vested under Govt, is well within the ambit of constitution.
2. Sampath Prakash case: S/C held that Govt can amend CoI through Pres Order Poojan Lal Lekhanpal.
3. Judiciary: Since S/C has agreed to hear the plea against centre's decision, clearly keeps alive the federalism as an independent judiciary is doing its job as per constitution.

WAY FORWARD: As advocated by Sarkaria Commission (1983) and Punchhi Commission (2011), + centre - state relations should be improved, by implementing their recommendations.

CONCLUSION: In SR Bommai (1994), federalism was declared as Basic Structure of Constitution and hence Centre can't change it, even if it does, judiciary will play its role.



Q.7) What are the key areas to be taken into consideration while negotiating an FTA, keeping in mind the interest of India? Discuss with reference to the ongoing trade negotiations in Asia.

(15 Marks/250 Words)

Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is signed b/w member countries to reduce tariff lines and boost trade.

RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) is a mega regional free FTA between ASEAN+6 (India, China, South Korea, Japan, Australia, ^{New Zealand})

While the negotiations have been ongoing for 6 years, India has remained sceptic and is still not clear on its acceptance.

RE RCEP covers 45% of world population and 33% of world GDP.

However India is still considering the following factors, to keep interests of India intact, before signing :

1. Existing Trade deficit :
 - Out of 15, India has trade deficit with 13 countries

- Trade deficit with China: \$1.5 bn (2005) → \$50 bn (2015)
- Trade deficit with ASEAN countries doubled from \$5 bn (2011) to \$10 bn (2016).

II DOMESTIC ECONOMY :

① India's ^{domestic industry} ~~economy~~ is not as efficient and developed as China and South Korea's.
Hence status of domestic industry is keeping India away.

② Member Country's Policies: China has a huge inflex of investment surplus and hence it is looking for markets to dump its cheaper produce.

III STRATEGIC :

1. RCEP is considered as China's quasi bloc and ~~is~~ together with BR1, seeks to exploit India's market, resources and gain strategic edge.

IV Negotiation :

① Member countries want WTO+ provisions like Freegreening, Data Exclusivity, which is not

in India's interests.

② Strict Labour and Environment laws again prejudice India's domestic market

Steps to be taken:

① India should focus on negotiations in service sectors more, where it has an edge rather than manufacturing sectors.

② The legislations (labour, patent etc.) should be in line with interests of all members, especially developing countries like India.

③ More vigil in opening up of India's market for New Zealand's dairy industry

④ Convey & formulation of consensus with individual members.

Conclusion: India should arrive at a WIN-WIN situation to get access to global value chains, improve domestic sectors while improving economic relation by continuous engagement.



Q.8) What are the reasons for reduction in the biological or economic productivity of the land in India? Also, suggest measures to reverse the situation.

(15 Marks/250 Words)

As per ISRO's Land Atlas, India's 30% land has degraded and in cities like Delhi, the % is 50%.

Land degradation refers to fall in productive capacity of land.

The major reasons for the same are:

- Social:
 - Illiteracy in aged farmers
 - Poverty causing them to undertake deforestation
- Economic:
 - clearing of forest land for sale of forest produce
 - Increase in demand causing increased use of fertilisers
- Urbanisation:
 - Increased concretisation, reducing natural seepage
 - sewage into water bodies
- Soil erosion
- Global Warming and climate change

6. Use of pesticides and insecticides killing beneficial microbes.

Government Steps :

- ① India hosted 14th Col of UN CCD (UN Convention to Combat Desertification).
- ② India has signed Bonn Challenge where it has agreed to improve land area of 13mn hectares by 2020 and 13mn by 2030.
- ③ India's current forest cover has increased from 20% to 23%. (2017 forest survey)
- ④ Forest Right Act, 2006, to enable tribal communities to safeguard forest areas.
- ⑤ CAMPA: Compensatory Afforestation and Management Restriction Act, enabling companies to afforest a compensatory land which is deforested for use.
- ⑥ Soil Health Card Scheme : to educate farmers about a proper use of fertilisers

However, still a lot of efforts are required to improve the situation:

- ① Implementing IPCC's recommendations:
 - involvement of local communities and devolving funds & finances
 - Increased Research & Development
 - Intensive Afforestation
 - use of Renewable Energy

② India can emulate China's plans. China had undertaken intensive land development plans to improve its land area by 20%

- ③ Education and Awareness Campaigns
- ④ Increased Budget Allocation
- ⑤ Withdrawal of MSP for water guzzling crops

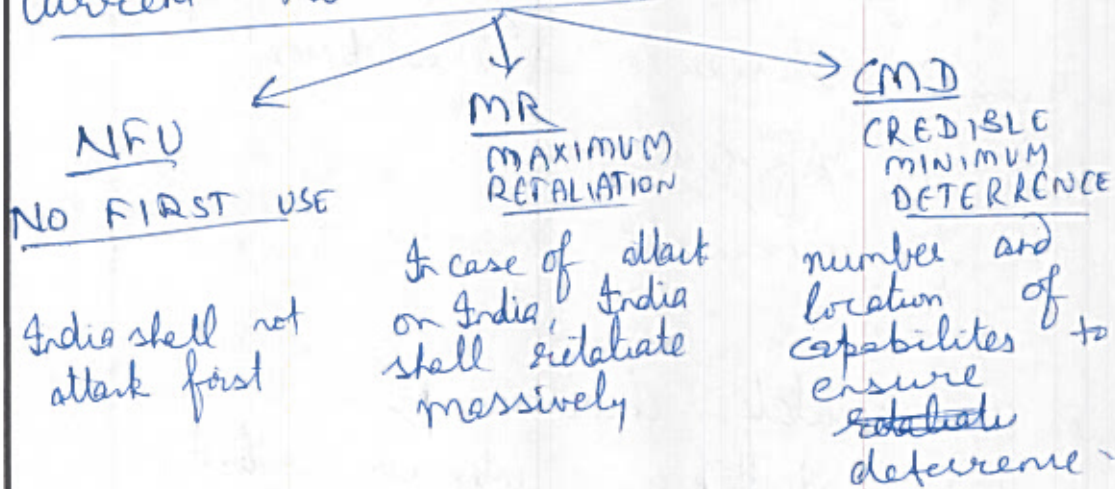
Conclusion: As per a recent report, India will lose 2.5% of GDP in 2040s, if it doesn't take steps for improving degraded land and hence Govt should take it as its top priority.



Q.9) In what way would any change to the "No First Use Policy" affect the strategic logic of the policy and national interest of India? Do you believe it is time to review the policy? (15 Marks/250 Words)

Recent comments by Defense Ministers for possible change in India's nuclear doctrine has sparked this debate.

Current Nuclear Doctrine:



Since 2000's, India has maintained NFU and has reaped following benefits:

1. NSG Waiver - It NFU helped India get a civil nuclear deal despite being non NPT signatory.

2) Responsible Nation : perfects India as a responsible nation and increases global clout.

③ Budget: prevents unnecessary strain on India's defense budget.

④ Acc. to Shiv Shankar Menon, NFO has served India's interests.

However, recent incidents of Pulwama, Uri etc. demand reexamining due to following reasons:

1. If India has some capability, it should make maximum use.

2. To maintain NFO, India would have to first suffer attack.

3. Acc. to Ex Defense Minister, Manohar Parrikar, India should not bind itself through such pledge.

4. Deterrence: India's repeal of NFO shall deter enemy states.

WAY FORWARD:

→ Every policy is framed keeping current circumstances in mind.

So it should be reviewed to analyse its cost benefit.

India should also adopt proactive and preventive controls like

Cyber: Control, Communication, Computer, Command
Intelligence, Reconnaissance, Surveillance

and engage with countries to avoid a situation where it has to exercise this choice.



Q.10) 'In the context of neo-liberal paradigm of developmental planning, multi-level planning is expected to make operations cost-effective and remove many implementation block-ages'. Discuss.

(15 Marks/250 Words)

