

Test Code: 35002

FIAS - 2020 - CA02

ForumIAS

ACADEMY

GENERAL STUDIES

Name of Candidate	SUJAWAL JAGGA		
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Mobile No.		Date:	

Time Allowed: One and Half Hours

Maximum Marks: 125

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION	
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	<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) Analyze the potential ramifications of the Supreme Court judgment in D.A.V. College Trust and Management Society Vs Director of Public Instructions (2019) case.

(10 Marks/150 Words)

Right To Information Act (RTI), 2005 extends to all the public authorities as defined under section 2(h) of RTI Act, 2005.

A Section 2(h), among others includes entities substantially financed by government.

In DAV College Trust Case (2019), S/C held that:

substantially financed doesn't only mean 50%+ finance, but it can be free land given by government, office of NGO at government allocated land or any other considerable assistance given by govt, to be determined on case to case basis.

This is a welcome step and has positive impact as follows:

- Increased Transparency & Accountability: More NGOs will be covered by RTI & hence more transparency & informed citizenship.

2. Scope for political parties : With this landmark judgement, now political parties shall also be covered under RTI, with most likely changes, making it a sea change.
3. Other public bodies : With state receding back, other bodies like BCCI should also be covered under 2(h).
4. Informed Citizenry : Citizens donate to NGO's & hence have right to know how their money is spent.

But the flip side is :

1. Small NGO's : Increased compliances shall have an impact on small NGO's
2. Interference : With coverage under RTI, NGO's fear that they might be subject to undue interference by state

Way forward : The ^{shift from} culture of ~~to~~ secrecy to culture of transparency is a cogent step and needs further reforms like: ^{more} autonomy of Information Commission & avoiding regressive amendments to avoid it



Q.2) How did the Li-ion battery contribute in setting off a technology revolution?

(10 Marks/150 Words)

2019 Nobel Award for Lithium ion battery
mark the significance of revolution, Li-ion
batteries have brought.

Initial batteries; heavy, less effective, non-
rechargeable & expensive were a big
hurdle. This was removed by
Intercalation of graphite with lithium
to produce the Li-ion batteries,
which have following advantages:

1. Light Weight: Transportation & durability
has increased due to its
light weight nature unlike previous batteries
2. High Energy Density: Li-ion batteries are
compact and have high
quantity of energy magnitude.
3. Low Memory Loss effect: Even if subjected
to continuous charge,
their productivity doesn't fall.

4. Low Maintenance : Li-ion batteries don't require much maintenance.

5. Recko Long Shelf life : They are reusable and last longer than traditional batteries.

Due to these features, Li-ion batteries have become an inextinguishable part of electronic industry (watches, mobiles), inverters, Electric Vehicles etc.

However, there is still a long way to go & it suffers from following limitations

1. Expensive : 40% costly than traditional batteries

2. Environment Impact : Since, most of them are currently not recycled, pose a serious environment challenge.

3. Limited Lithium Reserves.

Conclusion : Though a significant revolution, it has a longer way to go & bring more efficiencies to become more affordable, esp for Indian customers.



Q.3) What is Agroecology? Discuss its benefits.

(10 Marks/150 Words)

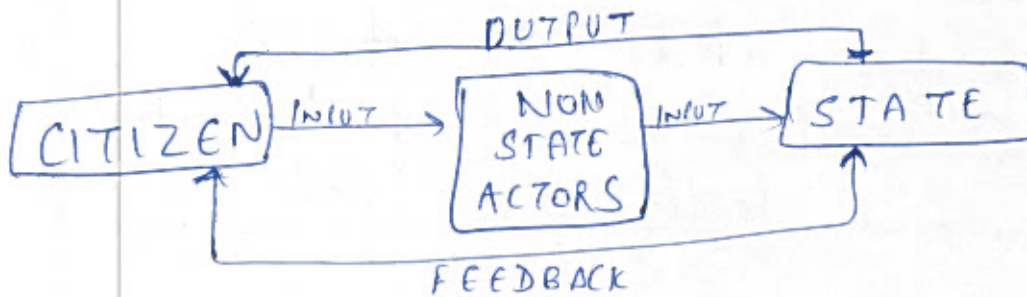
- Agriculture practices in line with environment conservation.
1. Counters Climate Change
 2. Maintains soil health
 3. Helps maintain habitat of animals
 4. Sustained economic growth
 5. Increased productivity
 6. Reducing global warming
 7. Sustainable Development.



Q.4) "In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal." Critically examine this statement.

(10 Marks/150 Words)

Non state actors refer to parties/entities, not part of state.
Non state actors play a fundamental role in



Non state actors include NGOs, Trade bodies, terrorist orgs etc. But NGOs are the most important ones & play following role:

1 Bridge b/w citizens & govt: Citizens' rights and concerns are advocated by NGOs & Government's steps and initiatives are communicated to citizens

2 Rights Movement: Acts like RTI, 377 verdict finally met their destiny due to NGOs such as MKSS.

3. Policy Goals: NGOs work selflessly to help state achieve its national & international policy goals such as SDGs.

4. Poverty Alleviation & Revival of Traditional Sectors:

NGOs undertake skill development initiatives & work on revival of traditional sectors such as handloom eg: Dahi Mat

The role played by other Non State Actors such as Barrowish & trade bodies also affect govt's policy eg: Relaxation to auto sector etc.

But, the role has not achieved its true potential, due to adverse ~~state~~ ~~NGO~~ relations with state, vested interests, Crony donor stigma, foreign influence etc.

Conclusion: The ultimate objective of sustainable development can be met only when all actors work in unison & for that, a conducive environment should be created & maintained.



Q.5) India's non-linkage to any significant global manufacturing supply chain is a major factor behind India's stagnating exports. Clarify.

(10 Marks/150 Words)

India's exports as a % of GDP fell from 24% (2011-12) to 19% (2017-18).

Despite aggressive economic reforms & policies, exports have not picked up due to following reasons:

1. Non linkage with Global Supply Chain:

India couldn't reap benefits out of US-China trade war due to non availability of conducive infra.

2. RCEP: India has remained sceptic of joining RCEP, again isolating itself.

3. US-India Trade Dispute: Again India has applied

high tariffs on US imports, restricting their supply, causing US to withdraw

GSP status.

4. ~~if~~ India's poor exports
However it cannot be attributed to
only India's non integration:

1- Inefficient Domestic Economy:

India at 52 in Global Innovation
Index, indicating poor R & D.

2- Low Total Factor Productivity

3. Low Social Infra ($\frac{102}{118}$ of Global Hanges
Index)

4. Lack of awareness about FTA's

Go way forward:

~~Both~~ There are a host of factors
impacting India's growth, non integration
with GVC might be significant but
not the only one.



Q.6) The Supreme court judgment in the Navtej Singh Johar case is based on core constitutional expectations of counter-majoritarianism and constitutional morality. Examine.

(15 Marks/250 Words)

The passing of Rights of Transgender Persons Act, 2019 is a next step of Navtej Singh Johar verdict where S/C read down §377 of IPC to decriminalise consensual homosexual sex.

It was not a one day affair and had a series of judgements (Naz Foundation, Kulluwanjy & NLSA) which culminated into this landmark case with following principles and arguments

I. Constitutional Morality shall prevail over Social Morality, as every individual has a unique worth.

II The Constitution guarantees equality & freedom of speech and expression under Art 14 & 19, which cannot be taken away, if it is not in conformity with majoritarian view

III K. Puttaswamy Case: Every individual has 3 types of autonomy.

- i) Personal Autonomy : personal space
- ii) Decisional Autonomy : to exercise sexual preferences
- iii) Informational Autonomy : rights relating to his data

IV S. 377 has long been used to exploit Transgenders and isolate them.

V The S/C also directed government to undertake Affirmative Action & give Transgenders the right to self identify.

In furtherance, govt brought the TG Act, which → prohibits discrimination against TG's

→ Right to Residence

→ Right to Self Identification

→ Establishment of National Transgender Council

→ fines & penalties for non compliance

→ appointment of Complaints officer
by establishments.

However, majoritarian sects and religious sects (unanimously) opposed the verdict and called it against religious ethos & values of Indian society. They have been vocal, calling it unnatural behaviour & focussing on getting the verdict reversed.

This reflects the sorry state of affairs of Indian conservative society and shows more cogent steps required:

1. Reservation in jobs and education
2. Awareness and education campaigns
3. Strict execution of act
4. Media and Cinema has a critical role to play

Conclusion: "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" is what our culture has taught us i.e. whole world is one family, it's time to walk the talk & fulfill Dr. Ambedkar's vision of society with "constitutional morality" & "certain majoritarian principles".



Q.7) India is assuming the leadership position of its own, at least on certain global issues and in certain areas. Discuss with examples.

(15 Marks/250 Words)

India is a developing country but it is paving a successful path for itself by showing its courage & leadership abilities, illustrated as:

① International Solar Alliance : first of its kind & first int'l org to have HQ in India, India along with France, started ISA to bring solar energy & solar infra to forefront.

② National Determined Contribution for SDG's : India has set for itself aggressive targets under NDC's (2.5-3 bn carbon sink etc.), which were further increased eg: Increase from 12⁸ mn to 13 mn hectare restoration in Born Challenge.

③ BSID: India is the first country to issue Born in Seafarer Identity Document to its sailors to ensure maritime security, counter piracy & confidence building.

④ Deep Ocean Mission: Spending 8000 crores, India is first developing country to venture into this. Getting 75000 km² area in Indian Ocean region, India is planning its Samudrayaan & Desalination plants here.

⑤ Chandrayaan II: A very high spirited mission to soft land on South Pole of Moon, if completely successful, would have made India the fourth country to do so.

6. Extending line of credits:

Whether it is Russia, Africa or Caricom Nations, India is opening its economy for all parties & has been aggressive.

7. BASIC: India is founding member with China, Brazil & South Africa to ensure sustained effort by developing countries to counter climate change

8. Counter Terrorism: Being member of FATF & SO-RATS, India is vocal about counter terrorism operations

Conclusion: The titanic steps taken by India, clearly reflect its ideology to contribute to global ~~eco~~ community & project itself as a leader.



Q.8) Considering the performance of the key indicators, it could be inferred that the slowdown in the economy is more than a cyclical one. Do you agree? Give reasons in support of your argument.

(15 Marks/250 Words)

India's unemployment at 6.1%, 45 year low, and 6 but there was a continuous debate on whether it was structural or cyclical slowdown.

However, when second quarter's GDP numbers of 5% were out, there was an almost implicit consensus on that it was a structural slowdown & not just cyclical.

To put the things into perspective, let's look at the data:

- 1. GFCF : 2011-12: 34.3% \rightarrow 2018-19: 29%
- 2. Savings Rate: 2011-12: 33% \rightarrow 2018-19: 28.3%
- 3. Unemployment: 6.1% (45 year high)
- 4. GDP: 5% (down from 8% (2015/16))
- 5. Exports: 24% of GDP (2011-12) \rightarrow 19.5% (2018-19)
- 6. Female Labour force Participation: down to 26% from 36% (2005)

The concrete reasons to term it as structural slowdown are:

① Corporate Tax Rate Cut: Tax cut from 30% to 22%, is implicit admission by govt that it's not a cyclical one.

② FDI flight: Post surcharge on FPI's in 2019 budget, there was huge FDI flight, which was not restored despite zillion measures, lost confidence of investors.

③ India^{vs} - China Trade War: India couldn't capitalise on US-China Trade War, with most firms shifting to Vietnam & Philippines.

④ Falling Auto Sector: Auto sector, which is a fundamental indicator of domestic demand, has hit the radius.

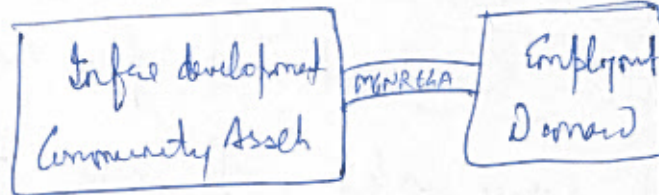
⑤ Agri-distress: Continuous farm distress & suicides despite PM-KISAN, MSPs and zillion measures shows the things are not fine.

⑥ IMF & World Bank's reports have downgraded India's growth of 2020-21 also.

indicating prolonged stress.

Corp. tax rate cut and FDI measures are not a silver bullet, host of measures required.

1. MGNREGA boost:



2. GST rate cuts: GST rate cuts increase disposable income

3. Investor sentiment: Policy uncertainty (RS-VT, EV's etc.) erode sentiment.

4. Institutional Autonomy: Acemoglu in his book "Why Nations Fail" has advocated for inclusiveness of institutions for economy to survive.

Conclusion: ES-2019 has called private investment as a key driver but for that govt needs to play the role of facilitator & bring landslide & titanic reform for transformation to achieve \$5tn goal.



Q.9) Independent structures set up to regulate and monitor the government are vital to a democratic state committed to delivering justice and constitutional guarantees. Elaborate.

(15 Marks/250 Words)

As per Robinson & Acemoglu in their book "Why Nations Fail", the autonomy & inclusiveness of social & political institutions is important for economic growth. Recent sorry state of our economy along with a bundle of regressive amendments, prove the above quote correct.

Analyzing them one by one:

• RTI Amendment: to end security of tenure & bring it within the control of union erodes RTI's autonomy & very objective of Central Information Commission

Earlier, the tenure was secure & allowances were equated to Chief Election Commissioners for CIC and to EC for IC (Info Commission)

Now, it is feared that CIC might also become caged parrot like CB.

and the very purpose and constitutional guarantees of transparency, equality & informed citizenry are in danger.

Moreover it is a blow to federalism as centre now controls state's IC also.

II SEBI: Budget 2019 directed SEBI to transfer its excise Reserves to CFI, without asking SEBI's view on that. The SEBI chief categorically wrote to finance Ministry that it will erode their autonomy & affect its job as market regulator, which was unheard.

III RBI: Continuous tussle b/w govt & RBI, finally ended with RBI succumbing to govt's pressure by transferring its reserves. Post resignation by two governors, finally govt had its way, got what it wanted.

II NITI: Recent report by NITI to ban ICE 2 wheeler post 2022 was outrightly rejected by FM in front of media, saying it's not their job.

Way forward:

1. Government is an integrated machinery, the interests of all stakeholders should be considered.
2. RTI has been a landmark step and statute, an amendment to erode its autonomy, should be taken back.
3. Institutions are governed by their independent statute, govt should intervene only when the institutions step out of the line.

Conclusion: There are bound to be disagreements between different branches but the ultimate goal of delivering justice & public interest, should not be lost sight of.



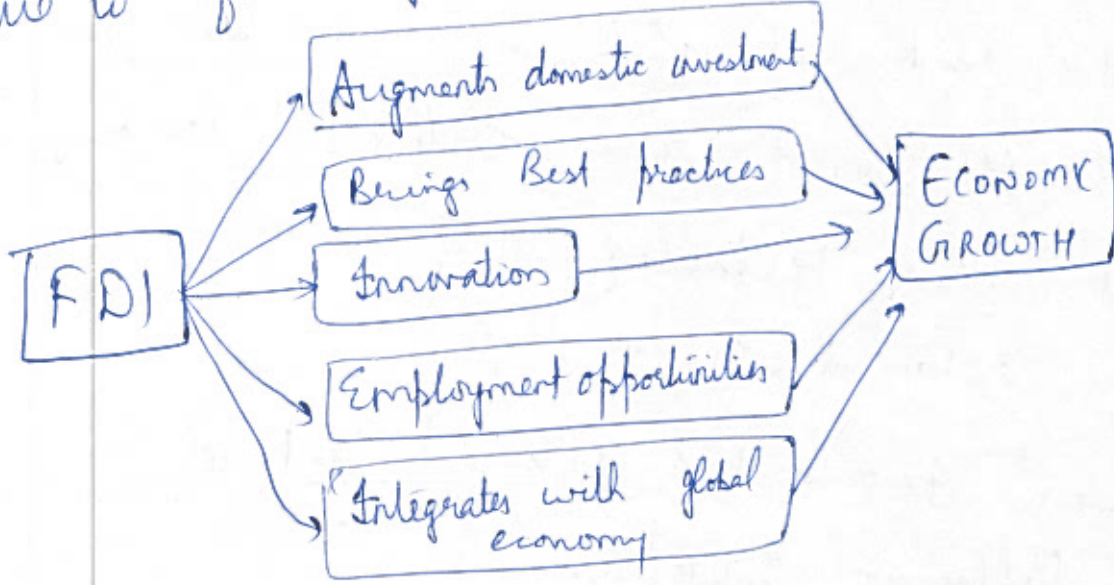
Q.10) The FDI regime of the country is already excessively liberalized. However, the government has further relaxed the norms recently. What difference would this make? Critically evaluate the pros and cons.

(15 Marks/250 Words)

In a slew of measures to boost economy, FDI norms were also eased viz:

- relaxation in Single Brand Retail Trade
- allowing 26% FDI in digital media
- ↪ FDI in contract manufacturing
- ↪ coal mining for purposes other than captives consumption.

Starting 1991, the FDI norms have been relaxed and the process still continues due to following reasons, summed up as:



① India is a developing economy & is capital hungry, where domestic investment is insufficient.

② Huge import bill and high Current Account Deficit, requires foreign reserves, brought by FDI

③ FDI, accompanied with global best practices makes the economy competitive

④ New investment brings employment opportunities, which is boon for India
(India's unemployment rate = 6.1%)

⑤ India ranks at 52 in Global Innovation Index - It cannot rise without learning about new technologies & processes from external economies.

However it is not a silver bullet & has following limitations:

1. Friend of Good Times: FDI flight takes place when economy plummets
2. Investment in Capital Intensive Sectors:
Job Elasticity is low, generally, where FDI comes, hence not much employment generation.
3. Winner Takes All: Base Erosion & Profit Shifting erode tax base & govt gets meagre tax revenue.
4. Round Tripping: misuses the tax treaties & leads to dwindling revenue
5. No Tech transfer: The technology is protected by patents, hence, no benefit

Way Forward: China doesn't allow FDI, without quid pro quo like JV with Chinese partners and tech transfer (Great Firewall). Due to this, today 8/20 biggest companies are from China. It's time India starts emulating this, to earn dividends.

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