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ESSAY

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|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------|
| Name of Candidate | Rahul Kumar | Test Code | 1256 |
| Medium Hindi/Eng. | | Registration Number | 430778 |
| Centre | | Date | |

| INDEX TABLE | | | General Instructions | |
|--|---------------|----------------|--|----------------------|
| Section | Maximum Marks | Marks Obtained | <p>1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code). उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक इत्यादि)।</p> <p>2. Write two essay, choosing one topic from each of the Sections A and B, in about 1000-1200 words each. खण्ड A व B प्रत्येक से एक विषय चुनकर दो निबन्ध लिखिए, जो प्रत्येक लगभग 1000-2000 शब्दों का हो।</p> <p>3. Do not write answers in bad of illegible handwriting. Such answer may not be evaluated. उत्तर अस्पष्ट अथवा गन्दी लिखावट में न लिखें। इस प्रकार के उत्तरों का मूल्यांकन नहीं भी किया जा सकता है।</p> <p>4. Write answers in ink only. Do not use pencil for writing the answer. However, pencil may be used for drawing diagrams, sketches, etc. उत्तर स्याही से ही लिखें। उत्तर लिखने के लिए पेंसिल का उपयोग न करें। हालांकि आरेख, चित्र इत्यादि बनाने के लिए पेंसिल का उपयोग किया जा सकता है।</p> <p>5. Do not write answers in a medium other than the authorized medium in the Admission Certificate. Do not use mixed language, i.e., authorized and unauthorized media together, for writing answers. प्रवेश-पत्र में उल्लेख किए गए माध्यम के अलावा अन्य किसी माध्यम में उत्तर न लिखें। अधिकृत और अनधिकृत की मिली-जुली भाषा का भी उपयोग न करें।</p> <p>6. Write answers at the specified spaces (right below the questions) only. Answers written elsewhere at unspecified spaces in the Booklet shall not be evaluated. प्रश्नों के उत्तर ठीक उसके नीचे दिए गए निर्धारित स्थान पर ही लिखें निर्धारित स्थान के अलावा किसी अन्य स्थान पर लिखे गए उत्तर का मूल्यांकन नहीं किया जाएगा।</p> | |
| A | 125 | | | |
| B | 125 | | | |
| Total Marks Obtained: | | | | |
| Important Instructions | | | | |
| <p>1. The ESSAY 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. No marks will be given for answers written in a medium other than the authorized one. प्रवेश-पत्र में प्राधिकृत माध्यम में निबन्ध लिखना आवश्यक है तथा इस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू.सी.ए.) पुस्तिका के मुखपृष्ठ पर निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर करना आवश्यक है। प्राधिकृत माध्यम के अलावा अन्य माध्यम में लिखे गए उत्तरों पर अंक नहीं दिए जाएंगे।</p> <p>2. Word limit, as specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों के उत्तर निर्दिष्ट शब्द-संख्या के अनुसार होने चाहिए।</p> <p>3. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off. प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गए किसी पृष्ठ अथवा पृष्ठ भाग को पूर्णतः काट दीजिए।</p> | | | | |
| Remarks: | | | | |
| | | | Is student recommended for One-to-One mentoring? | |
| | | | Recommended | Strongly Recommended |

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp. Punjab & Sind Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009

Students must not write on this page.
उम्मीदवारों को इस पृष्ठ पर नहीं लिखना चाहिए।

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All the Best

SECTION - A

1.

Achieving Balanced Regional Development

in India: Challenges and Strategies

Aisha : The landscape is lush green, it is so beautiful... Grandpa... it is so different from Punjab... but why are these forests burnt?

Grandpa : Dear, they are not just burnt... they are left to rejuvenate. It is called Jhum cultivation ~~in~~ here, in Assam.

Aisha : Jhum cultivation... so they do not practise mechanized agriculture, like we do? They cultivate by clearing forests?

Grandpa : Yes, dear. Green revolution did not happen in Northeast like in Punjab region. There are therefore, regional disparities in development. While we use

mechanized technology, tribals in Assam region still burn and clear the forests for cultivation.

Aisha : Well... that means there are great regional disparities in India.

Grandpa : To some extent, yes... Aisha.

As Aisha realized, India has significant gaps in regional development. These gaps stem not only from geographical differences, like the plains of Punjab and the hills of the northeast, but also from historical factors like policy-introduction (eg: green revolution, as in the above case).

Besides, social factors, economic and infrastructural gaps, differences in the level of human development and

political autonomy also play a role.

As regional balanced regional development is the key to India's progress, it is important to look at the key challenges to this goal.

Challenges

The Bane of the Past

Differences in regional development can be often attributed to historical conditions. It is often highlighted, for example, that the Zamindari system introduced by the British East India Company was at its most exploitative form in the Bengal region (present Bengal, Bihar and Odisha). Hence the flight of farmers in the region still remains worse than the national average.

Similarly, the historical isolation of tribes like Sentinalese and Orang in Andamans, also Tarawars, has contributed in increasing their vulnerability.

Economic factors

Besides the green revolution (that was first introduced only in Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh), the failure of land reforms also ensured that economic clout of the (former) Zamindars remain. As economic power is linked to social-economic^{political} power in villages the state of farm labourers (belonging mostly to lower castes) did not change, with the exception of Kerala and Bengal (Operation Barga).

Besides the above issues pertaining to agriculture and village economy, there is

Also a lack of balanced infrastructure development
Kerala, for example, has strong network of
basic public infrastructure, even in villages.

Gujarat, Delhi-NCR region, Mumbai urban
agglomeration has high-end infrastructure
catering to both industries and service sector.

However, states like Uttar Pradesh,
Bihar, Jharkhand had even been ~~unfamously~~
infamously categorized as BIMARU states once,
for their failure to provide even basic
public infrastructure for human development.

Social and Political issues

The orthodoxy of caste structure varies
with the length and breadth of India.

While states like Kerala has seen greater
empowerment of lower castes, states like

Bihar still have greater socio-economic
backwardness of lower castes. Similarly,

while patriarchy and son-meta preference is deeply entrenched in the northern regions like Haryana, Kerala has a matrilinear society. Issues like caste and gender discrimination impede regional growth by lessening the opportunities for emancipation for large sections. Also, merit is sidelined in favour of ~~caste~~ regressive attributes like caste and sex.

The historical isolation and varied socio-cultural practises of tribals like Nagas, Santhals etc. have also isolated them from the mainstream of development. This lessened progress in economic terms in tribal areas (Sixth Schedule) and Scheduled Areas (Fifth Schedule). Laws prohibiting transfer/sale of land of tribals

to non-tribals, while aimed at ~~ensure~~ preventing their exploitation, has unfortunately also impeded development in states like Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and northeast region. Lack of development and rise of inequality also perpetrates LWE (Left Wing Extremism) in the forested areas of these states.

Besides, challenges pertaining to geography, like Himalayas in the north, eco-sensitive Western ghats and Northeast region's connectivity issues and particularities of tribal island regions are also worth noting.

~~A Well Proven~~
These multidimensional challenges need well-formulated strategies.

Economic Strategy

Focus on varied sectors of the economy, like farmers, corporates and industrial-service sectors, and their interlinkages is crucial for overall balanced growth. For example, Food processing units can ensure rural development, farmers' emancipation, skill development of youth and impetus to linked sectors. For farmers' empowerment and doubling of income, focus on e-NAM (National Agricultural Market) and Commodity markets is a must.

Besides, ensuring "ease of doing business" by focussing on region-wise infrastructure constraints, like connectivity in northeast and basic public facilities in Bihar, can be the right way. Similarly, ease of

doing business needs to be ~~completes~~
complemented by a strategy to incentivize
"infants" in MSME sector, while weeding out
government support for "dwarfs" (according to
economic survey).

focus on fiscal autonomy of
state governments, by increasing autonomy
in implementation of Centrally Sponsored
Schemes, based on region-wise requirements, is
a must. Also, 14th Finance Commission's recommendations
of 42% direct devolution to states is the
way ahead.

Besides, focus needs to be on
Third tier's autonomy, for example,
through devolution of taxation powers,
municipal bonds, use of green bonds
for requirements like small solar and
hydro projects by municipalities and panchayats.

Social push

Equal participation of women by ensuring policy changes like parental ^{leave benefits} in place of maternity and paternity leave (as followed in Britain and Scandinavian countries) can dispel the notion that childcare is the sole duty of women, thereby boosting inclusive regional development. Besides, initiatives for women-led development, like promoting entrepreneurship at grassroot level, through Women Self Help groups and at university level, can lessen overall regional disparities. Also, incentivizing education and skill-development for economically weaker sections and lower castes can ensure development in poorer regions.

Political strategy

Emphasis on regional councils of

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NITI Aayog, Inter state Council (Article 263), Zonal Council etc. as platforms to discuss issues at regional level between states. Also to consolidate village-level plans into national vision is needed.

Island Development Council can ensure ~~the~~ specialized focus on island regions. Similarly, autonomy to Fifth Schedule (Scheduled Areas) and Sixth schedule (Tribal Areas) can ensure the realization of the spirit of TRIBAL PANCHSHEEL for regional development in these areas. Sarkaria Commission had also focused on more democracy at grassroot level to foster regional development.

Technological push

Initiatives Schemes, like Smart India Hackathon,

Atal Innovation Mission, focus on big data analytics, cyber physical systems

etc. can ensure evidence based policy making to foster regional growth. E-governance can also be pushed to ensure more public participation and less corruption for balanced regional development. (eg: use of ~~survey~~ public surveys, public feedback via e-mail).

Also, focus needs to be on preserving the ecological characteristics of various regions, like Himalayas ~~and~~, Northeast, island states etc. for long term growth.

Way ahead

It is pertinent to have the right policy-making, transparent policy execution and connection with the beneficiaries for ensuring regional growth.

Initiatives should come from the ground level, however an amount of government's nudge, for example, as seen in Swachh Bharat Mission can be essential for attitudinal change.

~~Key~~ Balanced regional development is the key to India's overall growth and to enable it to make the best use of its 'demographic dividend'. Right intention, clear mindset and the best use of resources are all that is needed.

5.

"Good government is No Substitute for Self Government" - M.K. Gandhi

After the end of the devastating World war 2, that Germany had lost, the Nazi government was dismantled. Its leaders were ~~ex~~ led to face Nuremberg trials for crimes against humanity.

Germany, in the meanwhile, was bifurcated into West Germany (governed by USA, Britain and France), and East Germany (governed by USSR). In the presence of foreign powers, economy stabilized, the blot of anti-semitism was ever erased from ^{the new} German identity...

Despite the overall program of

Germany under global hegemony, Germans longed ~~to~~ for the dismantling of Berlin Wall... they longed for self government.

The fall of Berlin Wall and the establishment of a self-government are cherished memories of a German that can never be erased.

Just as German memories confirm, self-government has an emotive aspect. It is a faith, ~~it is~~ as Aurobindo had stated. It is a birthright, as Tilak had concluded.

Good government ensures economic and political development, however, without ensuring people's political freedom to make their own policy decisions, the very essence of good government loses its sheen.

Before comparing the two, it is important to look into the attributes of good government :-

Economic progress - Ensuring overall economic progress, with the inclusive participation of women, lower classes, lower castes, the disabled (divyangjan) and other ~~and~~ underprivileged sections. Also, infrastructure development and capacity building to ensure long lasting economic growth. (eg: Skill India Mission, Smart Cities programme).

Political structure - A well-~~diff~~ defined institutional structure, with separation of powers between different wings of government (Montesquieu). Also, 'equality, liberty and fraternity' for all ^{forms} the

essence. Accountability, transparency and a system of checks and balances to ensure egalitarianism and end authoritarian trends, with collaboration of civil society.

Social progress - Good governance focuses on "equity" to ~~ens~~ ensure equality. Thus the differentiated needs of children, elderly, disabled, lower castes, women and economically weaker sections are looked into. Social security to ensure human dignity is the key of good governance.

Thus, good governance focuses on "minimum government, maximum governance" to ensure that the government works for the citizens, in line with the obligations on the government arising from the social contract.

However, every benefit of good governance loses its sheen without people's ability to participate in governmental functions. The desire of political freedom cannot be curbed on the pretext of material benefits. Besides, good government is unsustainable without self government.

Power needs to rest with the people as Hannah Arendt has stated, not with the government - else it degenerates into "totalitarianism".

In the words of Lord Acton,

"Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Thus, there are numerous grounds on which self-government is prior to good governments.

Political Angle - Self-government ensures people's participation. The ancient ~~Greek~~ Greek polis, as well as the modern Indian gram sabha, are two poignant examples. People therefore, know not only their rights, but also their duties as citizens. It ends medieval distinctions of caste, religion and gender and ensures political, social and economic equality for all. Self government ensures development with the consent of the people, in accordance with its customs and ~~tribe~~ traditions, for example, in Fifth Schedule areas (PESA Act, 1996) and Sixth Schedule areas (Autonomous District Councils) in India, and also ^{autonomy} in areas mentioned in Article 371.

Thus, Sarkaria Commission has also recognized the need to ensure more grassroot democracy to ensure regional development, and long term national integration that is the result of regional development. Thus, the road to Ramrajya is through self-government, not just good governance.

Economic Angle - Citizens' awareness, initiatives like social audit (made mandatory in ~~Bonga~~ Meghalaya). CAG's annual reports etc. keeps corruption at bay. It ensures that growth reaches to the "last man", as Gandhiji himself envisaged.

Moreover, self-government ensures allocation of resources and ^{execution} ~~execution~~ of policies in line with ground-level needs, ensuring regional development.

~~Development~~ Moreover, development is a key issue in Indian elections. Therefore, the government is politically mandated to ensure development, which is not the case in good governance without public participation.

Social aspect - Good government, while it leads to inclusive social growth and social reforms, often fails to achieve consensus of the citizens (for example, the regime of Shah Pahlavi in Iran, before Iranian revolution).

Self government may be a slow process of social reforms, but it is long-lasting (for example, the lessening of caste orthodoxy in India). Besides, self government ensures the safeguard of local customs ~~and~~ while also facilitating growth. The inclusion of 33% women reservation in Panchayats have, for example,

promote village development and women empowerment while ~~safeguarding~~ safeguarding village traditions that stand constitutional scrutiny.

The immense suffering caused by lack of self governance, all around the world, can never be forgotten. The uncomfortable history of comfort girls of Korea, during Japanese occupation in Second World war, is a case in point. Similarly, the genocide of Jews in Europe during Nazi expansion, from Ukraine to France, and also the Bengal Famine in ~~the~~ 1940s in India, cause shudders in the spine.

Contradiction

As Hannah Arendt opines, self-government needs to be accompanied with a level of political consciousness. It cannot be forgotten that the rise of Hitler in Germany was through a democratic process, with the consent of the masses.

Similarly, some Constitutional safeguards are essential. In India, for example, social evils like dowry, child marriage, honour killings, lack of autonomy for women, ~~etc~~, ~~as~~ child labour, caste orthodoxy, ~~etc~~ untouchability etc. are often passed in the name of "tradition" by community members. This needs to be strictly challenged, as such social evils are a hindrance to human dignity in particular.

and to Swrajya (self government) in general.

Besides, repression of minority groups in a community, for example homosexuals, is a real concern. It has been rightly stated that, the worst atrocities happen in closed societies. Thus, the right kind of self government is needed.

Way Ahead

Focus on the right kind of education that fosters constitutionalism in citizen is the first step. Besides, ensuring a respect for diverse cultures so that majoritarian trends are curbed in self government, ~~it~~ is required also

to ensure protection of their own culture, ~~in wake of~~ capacity building and resource devolution is required. Besides,

As Nehru had envisaged, it is essential to place democracy "at the doorsteps" of Indians. Self government is not only political participation, it also ensures capacity building, to

leadership qualities, inclusive and balanced growth. It was a "bold experiment" of India - first in 1947, and then in the form of 73rd and 74th Amendments

(Panchayati raj and Municipalities).

The very success of this experiment

mandates the precedence of self

government over mere good

government all around the world.