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GENERAL STUDIES (Test Code : 615)

Name of Candidate **SIBI ADHITHYA Senthil Kumar** Registration No. **8502**
Schedule **Dec 21 2015** Module **208**
Place **CHENNAI** Time **10:00 - 1:00** Date **12/1/2015**
Classroom ☐ Distance Learning ☒ Classroom & Distance Learning ☐

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
6	12.5	
7	12.5	
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14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, ID Number and Test Code).
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. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
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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Overall Macro comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

All The Best

All the questions are compulsory and carry 12.5 marks each.

1. There has been a great deal of soul-searching in India over the fact that none of its universities make it to the top 200 of the World University Rankings. What can be the reason behind such performance by Indian universities on the global level? Is it justified to evaluate Indian universities on the basis of parameters involved in such rankings? What changes are required to improve their performance in the context of global rankings?

✓ India boasts one of the largest intellectual workforce in the world yet we do not find our universities in the top global scale.

Reason for poor performance :-

(i) Narrow view of education :-

✓ The Indian system still follows Macaulay's system that focus on rote learning rather than quest for knowledge. This results in graduates being produced who lack skills for the industry.

(ii) Out-dated curricula :-

✓ Our curriculum glorifies and promotes exam which is a mark-oriented approach. This emphasis on content and neglect of creativity and critical thinking has affected us badly. This is why we do not have as many innovators.

(iii) Commercialisation :-

✓ Many of our institutions are run by politicians and businessmen who use it as a channel for black money. Therefore, there is

not much focus on education. Seats in reputed institutions can easily be bought with capitation fees.

(iv) No-merit based appointments:-

✓ It is a pity that 'educationists' are not running the institutions. Vital posts such as Vice-chancellors are politically backed appointments. The position of governor as chancellor itself needs to be changed.

International ranking system:-

✓ International rankings do not reflect Indian realities as we have various factors such as caste system and reservation.

The way forward:-

✓ The government's announcement to develop its own national ranking system is a welcome move. The rankings will stimulate competition and aspire universities to raise their standards.

✓ However, it requires real and relevant data to create such a ranking system. Experience from other countries show that it is not an easy move.

- ✓ A very basic problem in our country is the lack of data on many aspects of higher education. Basic data itself ~~of~~ has many limitations. Only when we have proper set of data, our rankings will have value.
- ✓ It should be taken care that all the affiliated colleges to universities are also included in the rankings. We also need to create a suitable index for comparing our research journals with the western system.
- ✓ We should work towards establishing a tradition of institutional research that takes care of the ranking system & data collection.
- ✓ There are lot of areas that need to be addressed to revitalise our education system. Establishing a ranking system would be a good start.

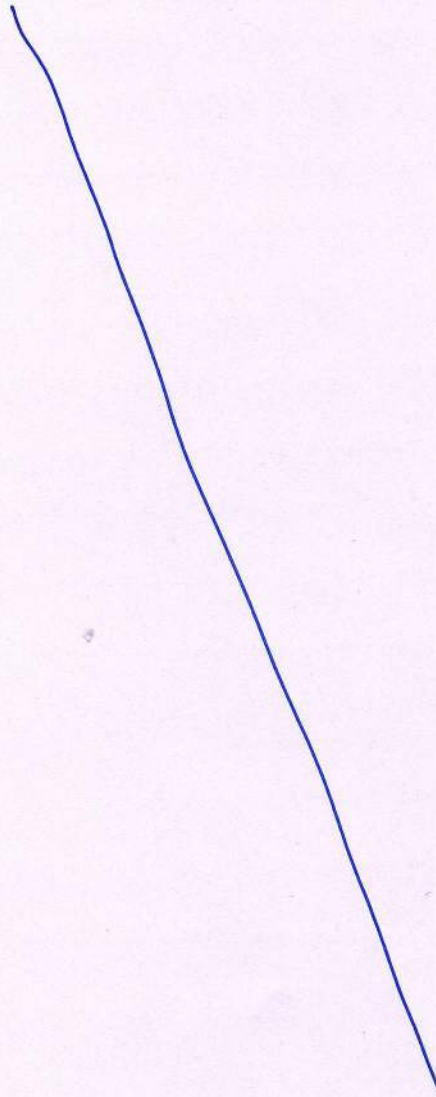
2. While difference in opinions exist between the State agencies and the Voluntary Organizations, the State recognizes the need to preserve, protect and nurture an enabling environment for the development of the Voluntary sector. Explain in context of the National Policy on the Voluntary sector.

- ✓ The National policy on voluntary sector aims to create an enabling environment for voluntary organizations (VO) that not only stimulates their effectiveness but also protects their ~~own~~ identity and safeguards their autonomy.
- ✓ It also seeks to make the VOs accountable so that they can play a constructive role in the development activities.
- ✓ The policy ~~also~~ gives VOs their independence. This will ensure that they act as critical watchdogs of the government. They can challenge forces that may work against public interest and find new ways to address social issues.
- ✓ The very purpose of the policy has given recognition to the VO sector. It will enable them to work in a more transparent manner. However, if there is over-regulation of organizations, their effectiveness will be reduced greatly.

- ✓ The funds received by VOs have always been a source of controversy. Many believe that they are a channel of black money or agents of foreign interests. The policy seeks transparency in management of funds received from various sources.
- ✓ The corporate sector has started giving more donations to the voluntary sector and the policy has recognised it in the form of Sops like tax rebates. The policy proposes continuing fiscal concessions and suggests that the government streamline the system for granting tax exemptions to charitable projects.
- ✓ Voluntary organizations have been a vehicle of societal development in our country. They seek to bridge the gap between the common man and the government reducing the governance deficit. The policy gives a new dimension to the relation to the working between government and voluntary sector.
- ✓ For creating an enabling environment, the policy seeks to create a consultative mechanism between various ministries to foster dialogue process.

The State must ensure that its approach is not interventionist and rather encouraging in nature, opting for co-operation with control.

Good governance practises must be implemented to facilitate the relation between government and NBOs and further the development of our country.



3. "Healthcare is a right, not a privilege". Should the right to healthcare be made a fundamental right in India? How far can the private sector help in achieving this aim? Comment in the light of debate on the Draft National Health Policy 2015.

India's poor health indices are a cause of concern. We are not in track of meeting the millennium development goals. The State with an obligation to take a more proactive role has come out with the Draft National Health Policy 2015.

Fundamental right:-

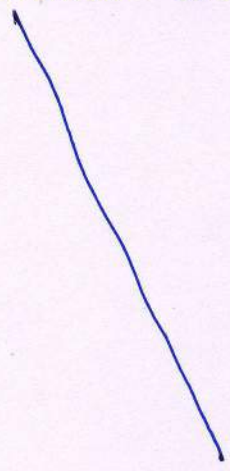
- ✓ Art 21, ~~which~~ talks about the right to life and it is obvious that without access to health, a person cannot lead a proper life.
- ✓ The policy seeks to leverage economic growth to achieve health outcomes and understands that better health contributes to immense productivity. So, the move to make health as a justiciable right is welcomed.
- ✓ The move to constitutionally guarantee the access to health will ensure effective implementation, better delivery of services and more accountability.
- ✓ So, The right to healthcare cannot be treated as a privilege.

Role of private sector:-

- ✓ The policy aims to attain the highest possible level of health and universal access to good quality healthcare without having to face financial hardship. The government cannot do this alone and needs the support of private sector.
- ✓ While the public sector will focus on preventive and secondary care services, the recommends contracting out services like ambulatory care, imaging and diagnostics, tertiary non-medical care to the private sector.
- ✓ The private sector today nearly provides 80% of outpatient care & 60% of inpatient care.
- ✓ Most of the sector is own-account enterprises which are not regulated properly. This concern needs to be addressed.
- ✓ private sector engagement would largely take the form of purchasing care from private hospitals on a reimbursement - against cashless services. This payment would be made by State health assurance agency.

- ✓ Both public and private sector should play a complementary role - private sector has to be given policy guidance & regulatory mechanism to orient them towards public health goals.
- ✓ Another possibility is to contract out primary facilities to not-for-profit organizations where government has a limited role. Domain-specific specialized services can also be leased out to private sector.
- ✓ private sector needs to be incentivized to conduct R&D for the aims of public health. They must also be encouraged to adopt villages to serve the purpose.

The health policy is a welcome move and multiple stakeholders must co-operate together in order to achieve the objective.



4. Charities and CSR are methodologies through which the rich and the big corporates "give back" to the society, rising above their sole profit motive. In this context, critically analyse the effectiveness of the CSR measures in India.

✓ Corporate social responsibility tries to bring an overall positive impact on their communities and environment. CSR is based on the fact that not only public policy but also corporates should be responsible to address social issues.

✓ India has one of the oldest traditions of CSR but they have become just a namesake for the companies without any real care. Though a lot of initiatives have been taken up to promote CSR, it is yet to receive widespread recognition.

✓ With the advent of western companies in the era of globalization, not much care is being given to the local communities with whom they do not have any bondage.

✓ The lack of a proper policy may be attributed to the lacklustre performance of CSR in India. However, it could charge with the Companies Act, 2013.

Companies Act :-

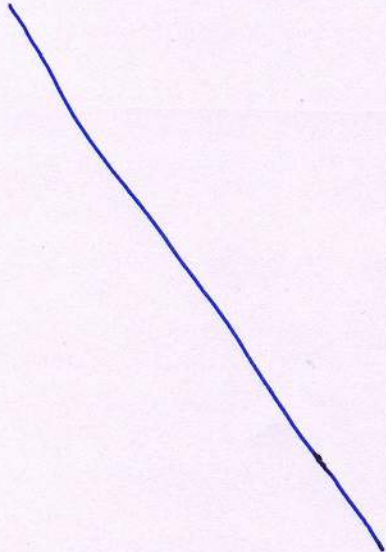
✓ The Act stipulates that any company having a net worth of Rs. 500 crore and above or a turnover of Rs. 1000 crore + or a net profit of Rs 5 cr + should compulsorily spend 2% of their net profits on CSR activities.

✓ This A fund can be used to address basic social issues or support development projects initiated by the central government

Many companies do not create a separate CSR department and prefer to partner with NGOs. Most NGOs have political patronage and no real good is being done on the ground.

✓ Many corporates in India such as Wipro, Tata and Reliance have foundations that engage in philanthropic activities. But the results are not positive.

✓ Another possible solution is creative capitalism. Companies must be encouraged to address social issues in their line of activity as this will have a better impact rather than just spending money.

- ✓ The New Act also ensures a proper monitoring system that was previously lacking. They are required to now review the progress made on CSR activities.
 - ✓ CSR is also a win-win situation. On one hand, social problems are alleviated and on the other, corporates avail goodwill and reputation.
 - ✓ There is no doubt about the positive impact corporates will have in addressing the social problems. Partnerships between companies and government should be encouraged in schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
 - ✓ This will only further the pace of socio-economic development in India
- 

5. Policies should work not only towards reducing the number of people below the poverty line but also ensuring that people do not suffer from multiple deprivations. Critically examine the above statement in the light of methodology adopted to measure poverty in independent India.

✓ The activity of poverty measurement has been fraught with challenges and incompletion and we are yet to formulate a perfect standard.

✓ The Planning Commission acted as a nodal agency for the estimation of poverty. The incidence of poverty is measured by poverty ratio.

1962 - Working group:-

✓ The working group had recommended the national minimum consumption expenditure at Rs. 100 and Rs. 125 for rural and urban areas for a household of five persons. It excluded health & education expenditure as it was assumed to be provided by the State. This was a lacuna as the state had not enough resources to implement the welfare measures.

1977 - Singh

The Singh task force produced a quantitative measurement of poverty by estimating average calorie requirements. It did not take into account other major deprivations faced by the people:

1993 - Lakdawala:-

This used state-specific poverty lines for the first time and hence it accurately captured the cost of living in many states. It also used the state-wise consumption distribution of NSS without any adjustment to NAS consumption.

Tendulkar report:-

The fundamental difference between this approach and the previous ones was that it focused not only on food but also other services such as health, goods, education and entertainment.

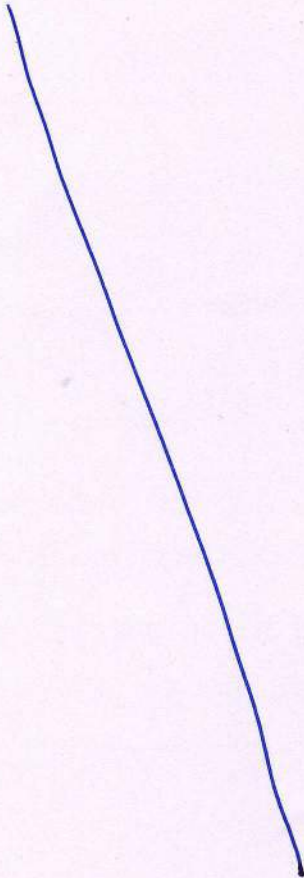
But it had overlooked inclusion of the marginalized sections of the society and had also reduced calorie consumptions.

Rangarajan committee

The Rangarajan committee proposed to revert back to the idea of having separate all India poverty line baskets for rural and urban areas.

It can clearly be seen that the methodologies are not holistic in nature and suffer from one limitation or the other.

We must focus on creating a method that takes a comprehensive measure of what it would take to satisfy a person's basic needs - empowerment line. It should be the level where the citizens can get out of poverty and have the resources to build better lives for themselves rather than scrape at subsistence levels.



6. "If district and regional councils are keys, then Governor is the master key".
Critically analyse in the context of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

✓ The Sixth schedule of the constitution deals with administration of tribal areas in four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

✓ The tribes in these states have not assimilated in the life and ways of other people in these states. On the other hand, the tribals in other parts of India have more or less adopted the culture of the majority of the people.

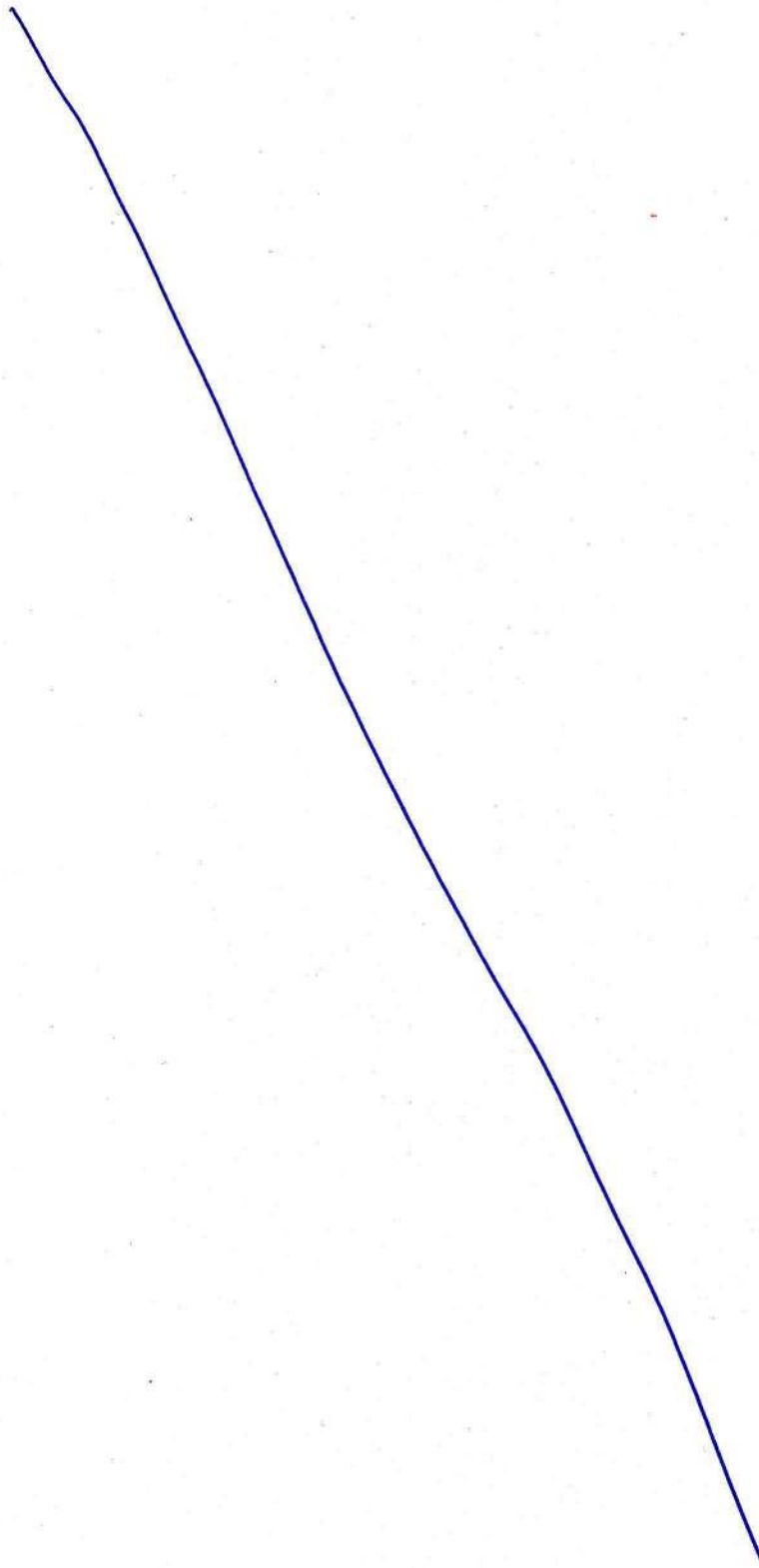
✓ These areas are hence treated specially by the constitution and to give it a constitutional enforcement, the governor is empowered accordingly.

Role of governor :-

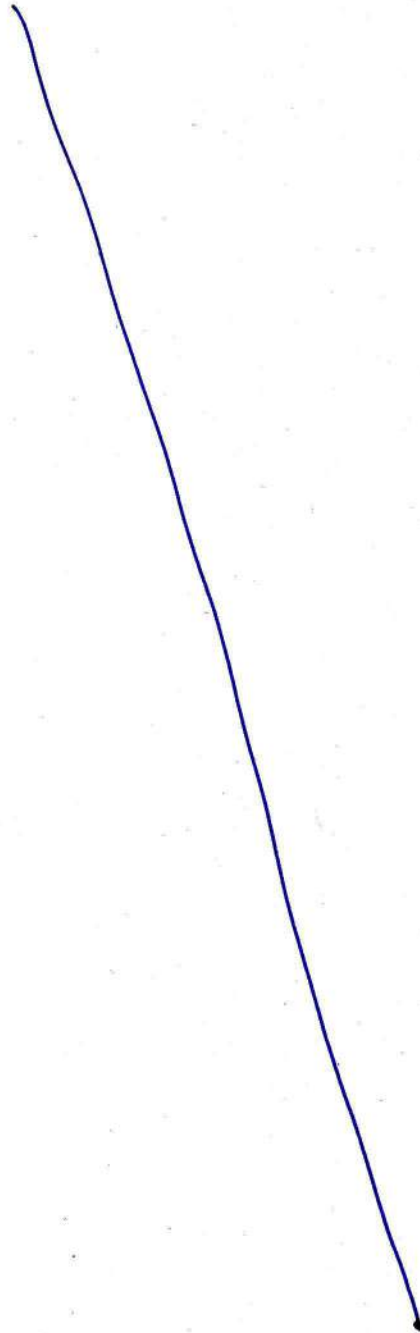
The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts. He can also divide the district into several autonomous regions depending on the number of different tribes living there.

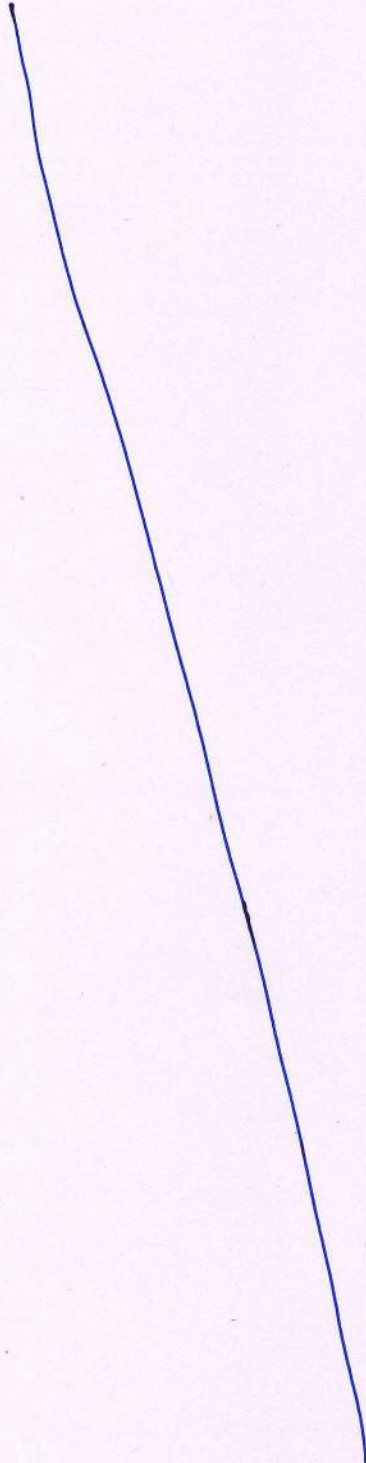
- ✓ The acts of the parliament or state legislatures do not apply to autonomous districts and regions as or they apply only with modifications. So, the governor holds the key in these areas.
- ✓ The district councils can make regulations for control of money lenders but they require the assent of the governor.
- ✓ Further, he can also appoint a commission to examine & report on any administrative matter of autonomous districts. He also has the power to dissolve a district or regional council on the recommendation of commission.
- ✓ The laws made by the councils on specified matters also require the assent of the governor. Further, he determines the jurisdiction of high court over tribal suits and cases.

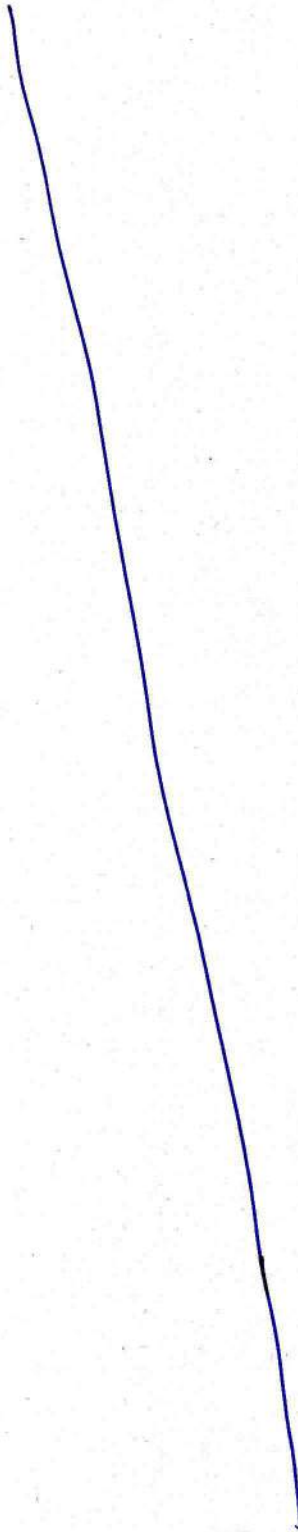
Thus, in order to safeguard the interests of tribals, the office of governor is vested with executive, legislative, judicial and financial powers.



7. The developmental model in India should include rural development schemes that are "demand driven" rather than "programme driven". Examine with respect to the design of various social sector schemes.







8. The Government recently approved the National AYUSH Mission. What are the key benefits that India can derive from it? Discuss along with challenges that are anticipated in its implementation.

- ✓ The National AYUSH Mission seeks to address the gaps in health services by supporting the efforts of governments, particularly in vulnerable & far-flung areas.
- ✓ The mission will help improve Ayush education through enhancement in the number of upgraded educational institutions.
- ✓ Ayush services are not widespread in the country and the mission seeks to provide better access to services by increasing the number of hospitals and dispensaries. The availability of drugs and manpower will be increased.
- ✓ To achieve this, there will be a sustained availability of raw materials to prepare Ayush medicine.
- ✓ By increasing the number of pharmacies and laboratories, availability of medicines and quality will be increased manifold.

- ✓ Bringing under a mission will facilitate in focused attention and allocating higher resources so that the objectives can be duly realized.
- ✓ Ayush is a good example of the vital heritage systems of our country which possesses untapped treasurehouse of knowledge.
- ✓ The mission will help realize the full potential of this knowledge and reach it to a wider mass of people.
- ✓ Another advantage is the diversity & flexibility and affordability which makes it readily accessible.
- ✓ Traditional systems also will have an easier acceptability by rural people as compared to western medicines.

Challenges :-

- ✓ However, there are many challenges facing the system. Nowadays, people with serious ailments do not opt for the Ayush system as they lack trust in it.

✓ Due to absence of a well regulated system many quacks have emerged which further erode the confidence people have in these systems. Standardisation of degrees needs to be brought.

✓ ~~Do~~ People do not take up as a career choice due to less pay and scope for development. More incentives need to be brought in.

✓ Some ayush hospitals face a delay in drug availability that affects poor patients.

What needs to be done?

✓ The government needs to ensure the mission with proper implementation and efficient enforcement and accountability mechanisms by involving multiple stakeholders.

✓ Initiatives like Ayush-15ha, a NGO - Government collaboration can be introduced in various parts of the country.

✓ The Ayush system is one that offers huge potential that needs to be utilized properly.

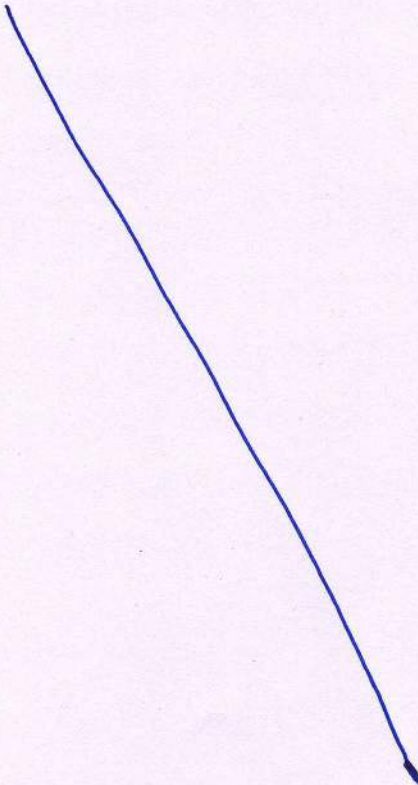
9. Though the latest Global Hunger Index report of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) shows considerable improvement in India's hunger index and this is a source of encouragement, yet a large number of people in India remain hungry. In this context discuss if there is need for a National Authority on Hunger Elimination with adequate financial and administrative powers in India.

- ✓ The Global Hunger Index report has ranked India 55th out of 76 countries and it is a considerable improvement from 63rd place last year.
- ✓ However, India's hunger status is still classified as serious and we lag behind countries like Nepal and Sri Lanka. There are nearly ~~350~~ 350 million hungry people in the country.
- ✓ One of the MDGs is related to eradicating poverty and extreme hunger. But India has not achieved substantial results. So, a need arises for National Authority on Hunger elimination.
- ✓ In spite of remarkable economic growth, high levels of food production & technological developments, millions of people remain hungry. It is estimated that at current trend, India can reduce hunger only marginally over the next two decades. This reflects inadequate attention being given to hunger related issues.

- ✓ The long-term implications of the currently underweight children are severe. It will affect development and we cannot realize the potential of demographic dividend. Hunger and health are closely related to poverty and unless they are tackled, it is not possible to achieve development.
- ✓ A NAHE needs to be established that has adequate funds and exclusive powers - administrative and financial and enhanced human resources solely dedicated with the purpose of making India hunger free.
- ✓ It must function as a high power co-ordinating unit with various ministries concerned - food and agriculture, health, education etc. Focused attention will result in efficient target management. It must be an empowered authority to co-ordinate with all states.
- ✓ proper incentives must be given to research organisations and universities to conduct projects on hunger-based issues in a holistic manner. The scientific community can help in achieving this objective.

- ✓ A fund needs to be established that will collect money from various sources - MLAs, MPs, CSR/NGOs/NRIs etc that will contribute to states depending upon the magnitude of their problem.
- ✓ Strong political will and dynamic leadership is also essential.

Existing schemes have failed to achieve the desirable targets. The country needs an authority dedicated solely for hunger elimination by involving multiple stakeholders otherwise, our dream of becoming a developed nation will remain so.



10. Bureaucracy has a love-hate relationship with democracy. As a servant it is invaluable but as a master it can ruin us. Discuss in light of relationship between democracy and bureaucracy in India since independence. Also, examine the ways in which the democratic credentials of the bureaucracy can be strengthened.

The Indian civil service, the pioneer of bureaucracy of in India had establish a reputed institution on the global level. The relation between bureaucracy and democracy has undergone many changes since independence.

At the time of independence, the IAS had was merely a continuation of the ICS. The nascent country needed the help of experienced bureaucrats for administration and they were rightly called as the steel frame of India.

However, instead of gradually incorporating democratic elements, the character of bureaucracy was maintained and it has assumed all-encompassing responsibilities. Instead of serving the people, they have turned into an elite group of people.

As a servant of ~~bureaucracy~~ democracy, bureaucracy has a very vital role to play especially in developing countries. They are responsible for translating the policies and

programmes formulated by the executive on the ground level. The quality of citizen's life depends on the attitude and performance of bureaucracy. They are responsible for delivering public services to the marginalized sections of the society.

✓ As we moved towards decentralization with the 73rd and 74th amendments, bureaucracy did not cope up with the changing dynamism. It ~~off~~ becomes a stumbling block for elected representatives in local governments and retains an unhealthy control of the state over the local governments.

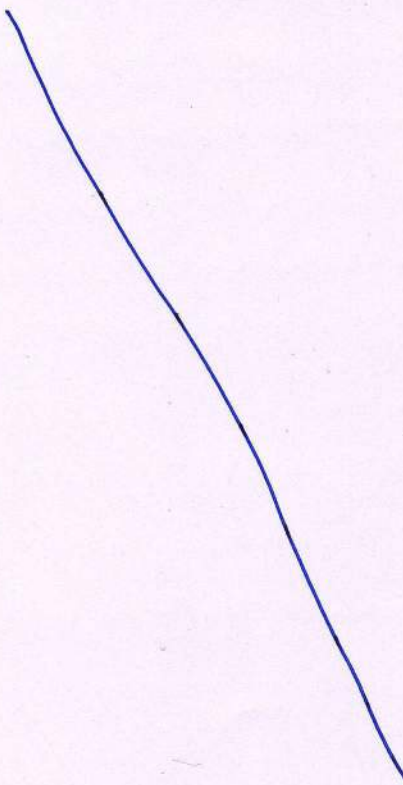
✓ Due to insecurity of tenure, the nexus between bureaucrats and politicians has grown in huge proportions. So, the commitment towards serving people takes a backseat where they work according to the whims and fancies of politicians.

✓ Today, however, with growing need for accountability and suitable mechanisms, bureaucracy has become more people-centric.

Strengthening democratic ideals:-

- ✓ A good starting point would be to usher in the practises of good governance. where there is respect for rule of law, special care for disadvantaged and being more tolerant and broad minded.
- ✓ Accountability mechanisms along with performance monitoring should be enforced so that the public get what they deserve.

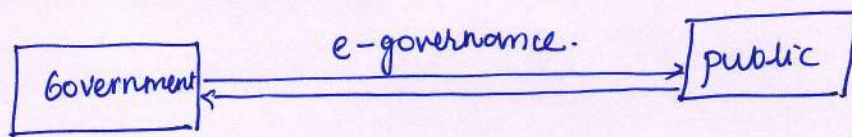
The progress looks good with bureaucracy adopting a more democratic outlook. There is a reason why bureaucrats are called civil servants and it must remain so.



11. Digital India programme has the potential to not only transform the citizen service delivery, but also provide the much needed impetus for key social and industrial sectors. Examine.

✓ Digital India is a programme that aims to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It ~~en~~ will ensure that government services are available to citizens electronically.

citizen service delivery :-



✓ By mandated delivery of government services electronically, public accountability will be strengthened. Infrastructure will be ~~exte~~ made a utility for every citizens. There is a move to make high speed internet a core utility in all gram panchayats.

✓ people will be given a lifelong ~~de~~ unique digital identity that will help them access all government services within their locality. It improves ease of access and also brings in transparency since the citizen directly deals with the government.

The program also seeks to make citizens digitally empowered. citizens will get universal digital literacy whereby they can also involve in participatory governance on a digital platform. All government documents/ certificates will be available on ~~at~~ the cloud on all Indian languages that the public can access.

Social & Industrial sectors:-

The programme has immense potential to change the dynamics of various sectors in our country.

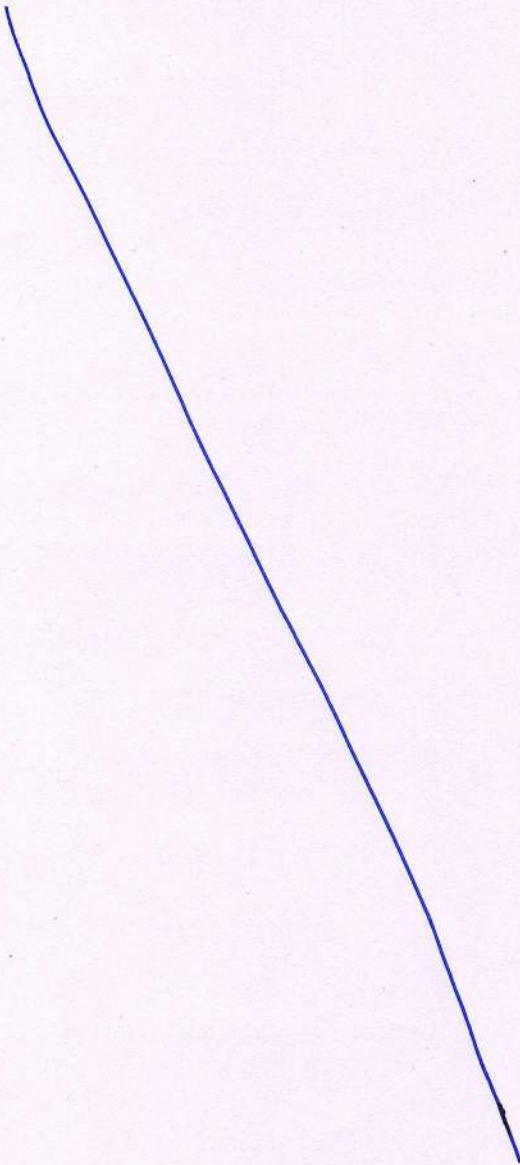
✓ We can use this to build a robust & reliable health information system. The ~~add~~ details of all doctors and patients will be made available in a single database and can be used for effective treatment & delivery of services.

✓ Rural communities can avail this opportunity to propagate their venerable heritage and ensure that its traditions are empowered.

✓ In the coming years, India is expected to become more urbanized. A digitally empowered India will provide more fillip to e-commerce companies to penetrate into far flung areas.

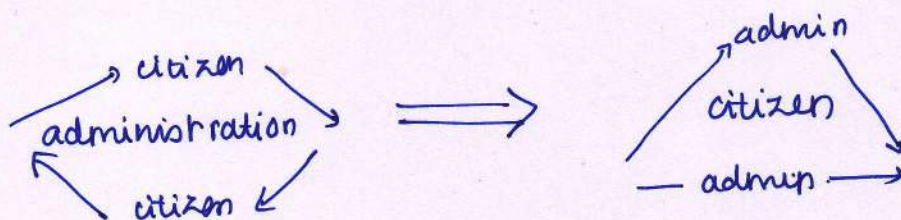
people will become financially empowered as they can use their knowledge in varied sectors providing a boost to the economy.

The government must engage in public-private partnerships for last mile connectivity to ensure the potential of the programme is realized.



12. Citizens' participation in governance embodies a shift in the development paradigm from citizens as passive recipients to active participants in the development process. What are the different mechanisms for citizens' participation in the development process? Illustrate.

for long, citizens were treated as the periphery in the administrative process. But with ideals of good governance being implemented, there is a move towards citizen centric governance



Decentralisation :-

- ✓ The 73rd and 74th amendment created local bodies that took care of its own development process. In a large country like India, development must begin at the grassroot level, whereby people can make decisions for themselves.

Civil societies organisations :-

- ✓ Previously, government alone was the chief policy planner and implementor. But it was realized that the benefits were not trickling down to major sections of the society.

CSOs like NBOs have become one of the major implementors of public policy. They also act as a voice of democracy ~~by~~ ^{and} ensure that the government acts according to the will of people.

RTI :-

✓ The RTI Act is a powerful tool that ensures accountability and transparency from the government. The government can no longer take arbitrary decisions and citizens have a right to get information.

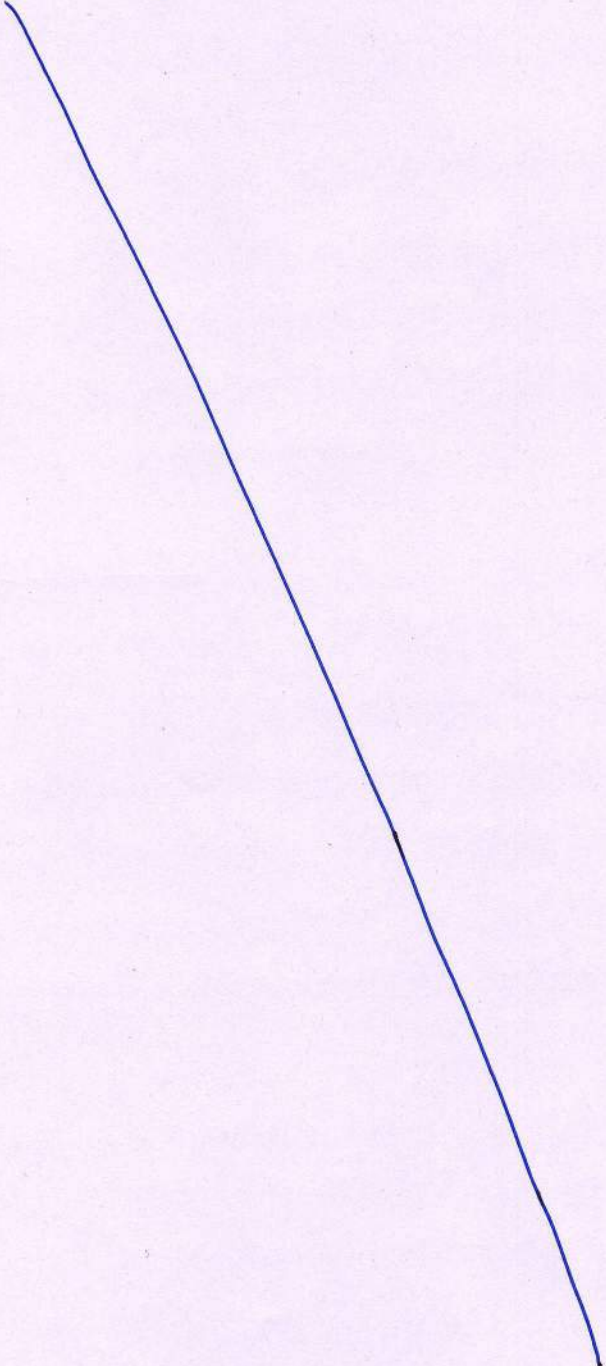
E-governance initiatives :-

✓ E-governance has changed the dynamics between citizens and government. Citizens can actively interact with the government regarding their grievances. Initiatives like mygov.in encourages citizens to actively take part in various developmental activities.

PIL :-

✓ public interest litigation is an important judicial tool in the hands of people. It can be used to check the government if it goes against the wishes of people.

India is moving towards an age where citizens play a very active role in the developmental process. It ~~only~~ strengthens the democratic ideals of our country.



13. Critically comment on some of the important provisions of the proposed Road Transport and Safety Bill, 2014. Do you think imposing hefty penalties on traffic rule violations can ensure road safety? Discuss.

- ✓ The Road Transport and Safety Bill 2014 seeks to provide for safer, faster, cost effective & inclusive movement of passengers and freight in the country.
- ✓ The bill has ~~come~~ been introduced due to increase in road casualties. One accident occurs every minute and one death every four minutes.

Important provisions:-

- ✓ It sets up two new statutory bodies - Motor Vehicle Regulation & Road Safety Authority of India & National Road Transport & Multi modal co-ordination Authority. They will set up regulations, finance road safety programs and will be accountable to parliament.
- ✓ This will ensure a robust system of laws that are properly enforced.
- ✓ Unified Driver Licensing system - This will avoid duplication by the use of a biometric system. corruption and agents problem will be avoided with automated driving tests. The license work can be sourced to private companies but it remains to be seen whether it will fall under the purview of RTI.

Goods Transport and National freight policy -
It will create simplified permits and single
portal clearances. It will also develop freight
networks throughout the country. Due to
cheaper transport cost, it will help reduce inflation.

Punishments:-

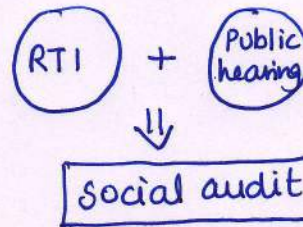
- ✓ one of the salient feature of the bill is its
increase in severity of punishments for
various types of road offences. such as rash
driving, alcohol influence, causing death of child
etc. It is estimated that 2 lakh deaths will
be reduced in the next five years due to
hefty punishments.
- ✓ The fines have kept in a uniform system
with considering the income inequalities in
various towns and cities. Fines should be
normalized based on the cost of living of that
particular area.
- ✓ Fines alone will not help in solving the problem.
~~there~~ Improvement in road designs and efficient
public transport systems, good pathways for
pedestrians will alleviate the problem further.

- ✓ The amount of hefty fines will increase under-reporting as the fine amounts are larger than the salaries of many drivers. The penalty amount has to be set considering India's per capita income. We can opt for a system to levy fines (as followed in Sweden) according to the net income of offender.
- ✓ The Bill has tackled the issue of road safety in a holistic manner. Imposing hefty fines is a good way to reduce accidents but there must be proper enforceability mechanism. Also, road design, infrastructure and environment needs to be suitably developed.

14. "There is an urgent need to institutionalize social audit for major welfare schemes as a large part of the government's budget is spent on them". What are the benefits of social audit? Citing relevant examples, bring out the loopholes in its implementation. Also, suggest some measures for its improvement.

✓ Social audit is a process of reviewing official records and determining whether state reported expenditure reflects the actual money spent on the ground. It has become very important to prevent mass corruption in schemes like PDS, MGNREGA, etc.

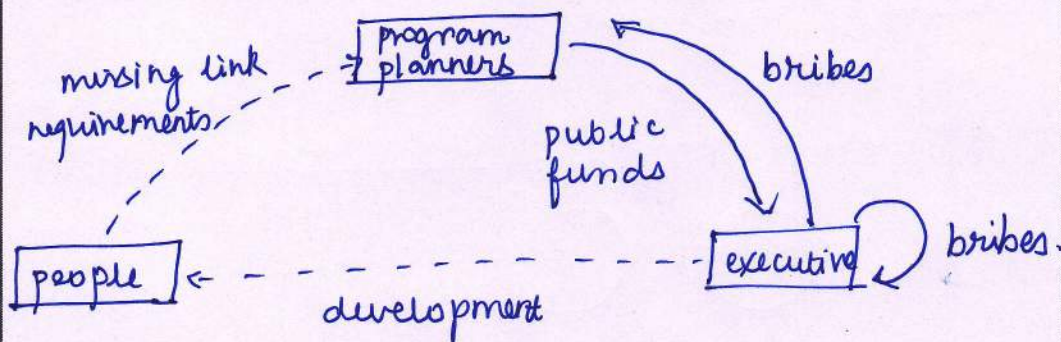
* Benefits :-



- ✓ It encourages involvement of people in developmental activities and this will ensure that the money is spent where it is actually needed.
- ✓ This ~~ultimate~~ accountability mechanism helps in the reduction of wastages and corruption on a large scale. It ensures that the welfare schemes of the government translates as benefit for the people.
- ✓ Since people get better living standards, it promotes a integrity and a sense of community among people. It also strengthens the relation between government and people by building more trust.

✓ Schemes such as this creates an awareness among people and they can demand what is their right. In other words, it further strengthens democratic credentials.

Without social audit, the following would happen:



Loopholes in implementation :-

✓ Let us assess the loop-holes in the working of social audit in MGNREGA scheme in Anantapur district of Andhra-pradesh.

✓ Even if a state government publicly announces regular social audits, the first round of auditing, due to limited state credibility fails to take transgressors by surprise and hence does not reveal any irregularities.

✓ Despite an increasing awareness of beneficiaries, the mal-practices were not reduced. This is because of an underlying change in the way corruption works.

One main reason is that the follow up and enforcement of punishments are weak. There are no legal principles to follow up on social audit principles. There must be a regulatory framework to ensure it is properly implemented.

Measures:-

The first step is to institutionalise the mechanism of social audit in major welfare schemes of the country. Through citizen charters and effective propaganda about RTI, people must be made aware. E-governance can be implemented to usher in transparency & accountability.

Social audits are the best tool to reduce the disconnect between what the government thinks & does. It needs to be strengthened to improve the delivery of public programmes.

15. "Though e-governance has facilitated the collection of taxes it has not provided any control over how the tax money is utilized". In this context, discuss if the problem in India is not of e-governance deficit but of governance deficit.

✓ The issues pertaining to tax have always been under scrutiny in our country. It is the major source of revenue ~~of~~ for the government which translates itself into development. Therefore, both tax collection and utilization plays a major role.

Tax collection:-

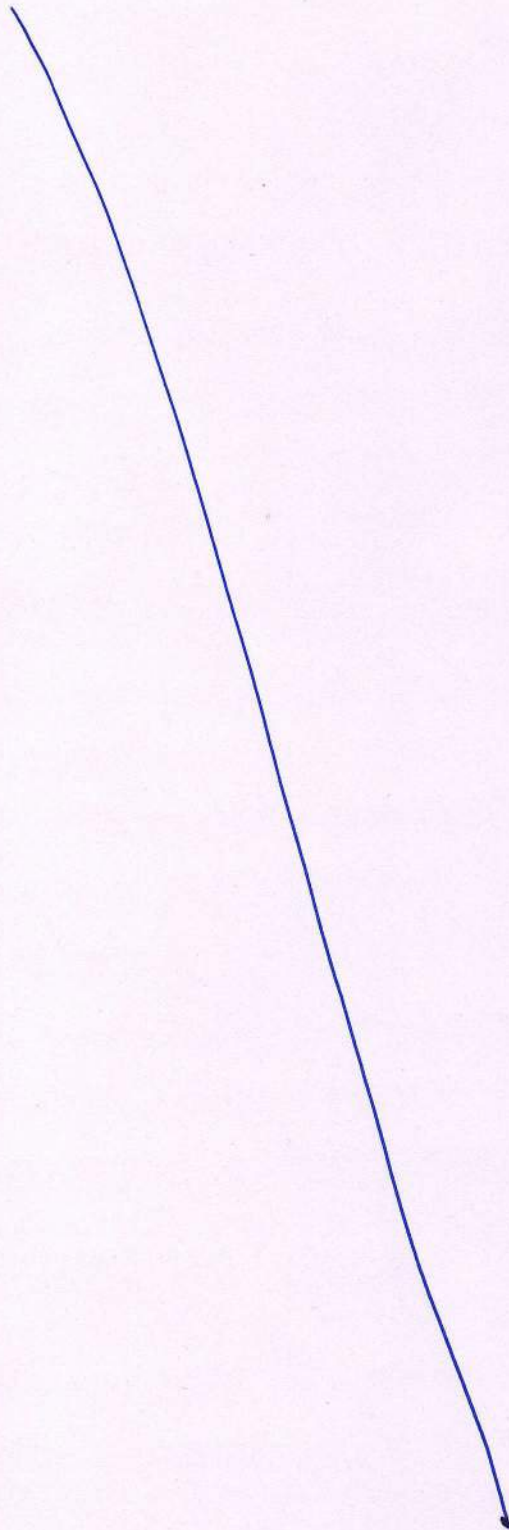
✓ For years, manual methods were used for tax collection and hence only very little revenue was generated. Nowadays, e-governance measures have been introduced where citizens can easily pay according to their convenience. This has not only increased public ~~confide~~ convenience but also efficient tax collection system.

✓ However, our tax collection stands very low ~~to~~ on the global scale. We need to bring about strong tax evasion laws so that revenue is not lost for the government. Also, we need to focus on indirect taxes that are reliant on transactions.

Governance deficit:-

- ✓ We have tried to tackle the issue at the bottom of the pyramid - i.e. citizens paying taxes. However, there is no mechanism to ensure that tax money is properly utilized.
- ✓ There is no proper accountability mechanism to ensure that the taxes are properly utilized. The government can decide to allocate it to any scheme as it pleases, not necessarily translating into the welfare of citizens.
- ✓ The government needs to be transparent in the methodology the money is being spent. Though the budget outlines the governments' ideals, the efforts are not translated into ground reality.
- ✓ There must be political will to ensure that there is no governance deficit taking place in the top brass of the country.

India needs to strengthen the tax collection methods and also an efficient and transparent utilization system if it aspires to become a developed country.



16. The dream of making India a global manufacturing hub in a highly competitive world economy cannot be realized in the absence of a sustainable skill pool. Examine the structural and functional constraints w.r.t. skill development programme in India.

✓ India will possess one of the largest working population in the coming decades and it must fully utilize the potential of this opportunity.

✓ Every year, 12 million Indians join the workforce but only 10% of them are skilled. By 2020, developed nations will face a severe shortage of workers and they have to outsource their work elsewhere. In order to make India as a viable manufacturing hub, we need a cheap and skilled workforce. The Kin Dayal Antyoda yojana will help in realizing this objectives. However, there are many constraints regarding the skill development programme.

✓ There are now 22 ministries that are running parallel schemes for skill development. In addition to this, States have also created their own skill development missions. Each of these have different norms of eligibility criteria and process mechanisms. This leads to resource wastage, while some beneficiaries will get multiple benefits for undergoing the same type of training.

There are four types of skill development that have been identified. - freshers, re-skilling, recognition and college. So, skill development must take into all the aspects and a holistic definition needs to be formed that encompasses all stages of skill development.

Measuring outcomes is an important parameter in determining the success of a programme. So far, the outcomes measured are the number of people who got training and the money spent. But we must incorporate outcomes that have realized the true objectives of the scheme - the number of people who got a job, the period for which he/she was able to sustain the job and whether there was an increase in income after the skill development.

Government must also not release funds solely based on outcomes. Instead, it has to perform a time study and cost study on the particular program. Then the costs can be decided on per trainee, per hour basis. This will be a more rational way of utilizing the funds.

✓ In order for the programme to succeed, both teachers and students have a very large role to play. The teachers should be motivated with incentives and bonus depending on the outcomes. Trainees must be made aware of the importance of such programs.

✓ There must be a management information system and unique identification to track beneficiaries. Social audit can be permitted to check corruption and bogus beneficiaries.

✓ The government must play an active role in bringing tribals and other marginalized sections of society and hone their traditional skills.

The Skill Development programme needs to take a holistic approach involving multiple stakeholders to make India a manufacturing hub.

17. Hitherto, healthcare policy in India has turned a blind eye towards neo-natals. In light of the above statement, examine the constraints faced and the steps taken to tackle the problem of neo-natal mortality in India.

✓ India has the leading number of neo-natal deaths (0-27 days) in the world, accounting for nearly 30% of the casualties. Though steps have been taken, India's reduction rate is very appalling - just 2.6% over the last two decades. The government has also tried to come out with various interventions to tackle the problem.

Institutional deliveries :-

- ✓ The first major step taken by government has been the promotion of institutional deliveries by providing conditional cash transfer. In addition, women delivering in government institutions are guaranteed free drugs, diagnostic tests, diet & transport to healthcare.
- ✓ The coverage of institutional deliveries have increased from 40% to 70% over the past five years and it has resulted in a reduction of NMR.
- ✓ However, the rate of reduction fails to reflect in the increase in institutional deliveries.

* Though institutional deliveries are as high as 63% and 53% in MP and Odisha, the NMR is still very high.

One of the main reasons is the quality of skill training for health workers. This lack of professionalism has had an adverse effect.

Multi-deliveries by women at very short intervals has deteriorated the health of women making them unfit for healthy deliveries. This issue needs to be tackled by providing family planning education to women so that they have adequate spacing between births.

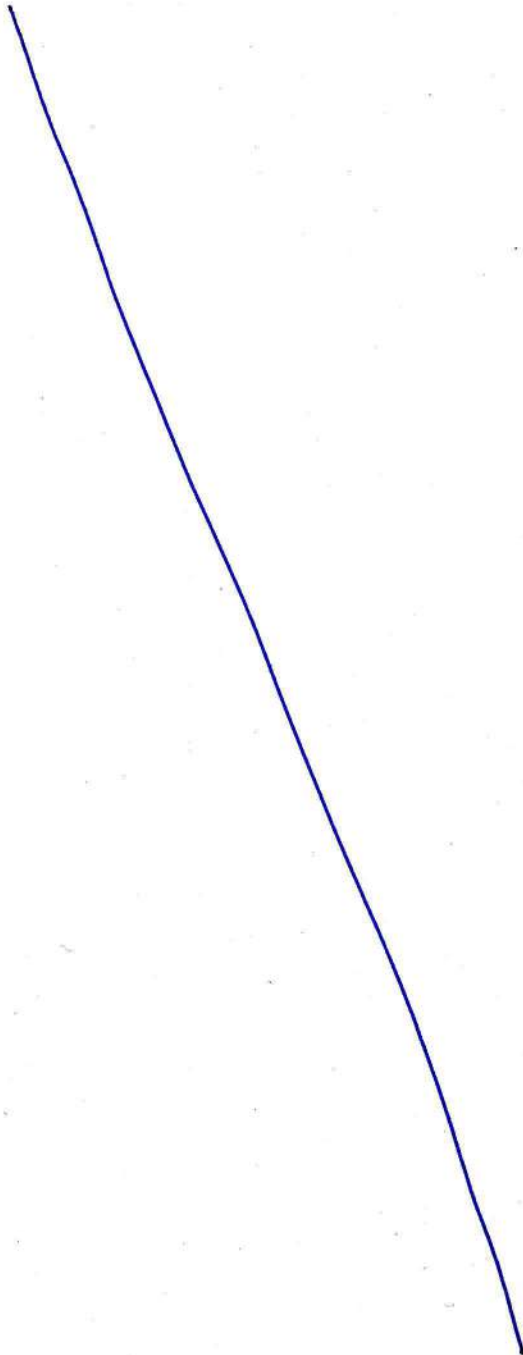
* The government has also taken the initiative of ASHA workers coming to home and educate mothers on breast feeding. Greater attention should be focused on providing breastfeeding within an hour of birth as it can save 44% of the children.

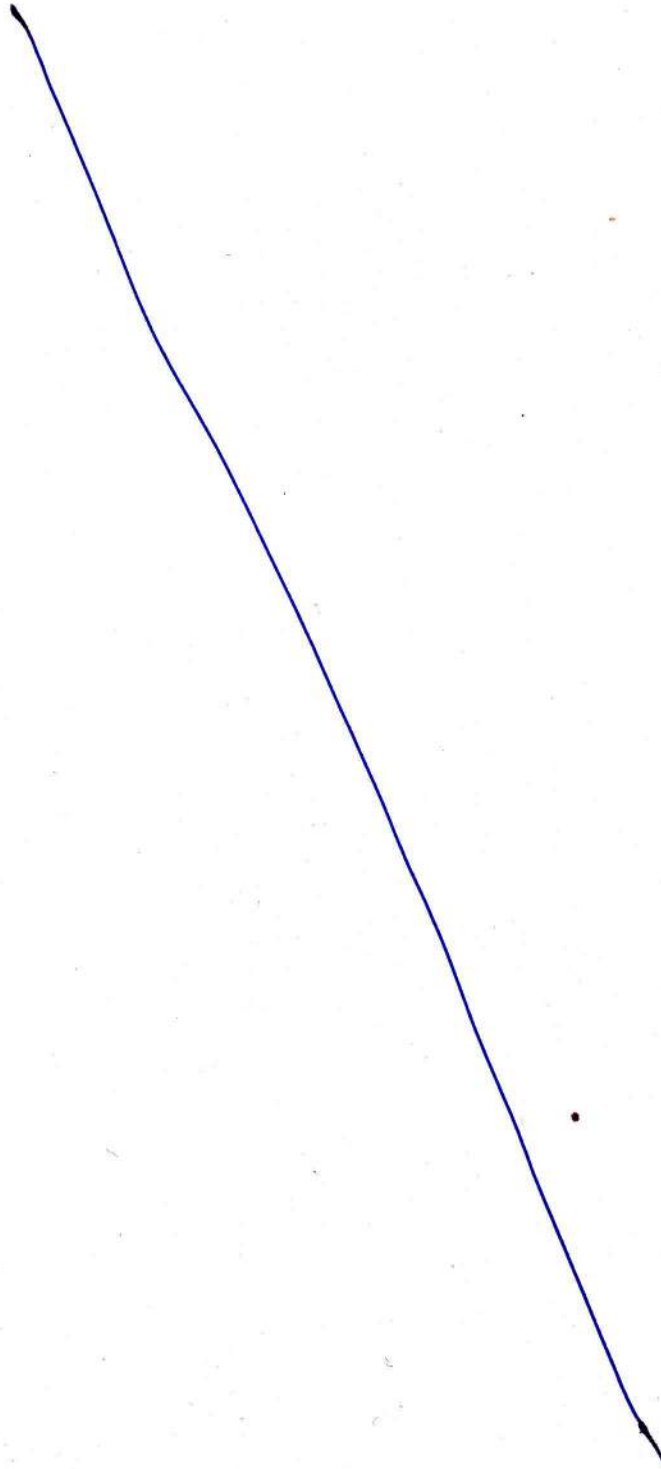
* One major cause of high NMR is the increase in preterm births. The cause for it is also not known properly. But by preventing adolescent pregnancy, medical care providing and reducing gap between two deliveries, it can be reduced.

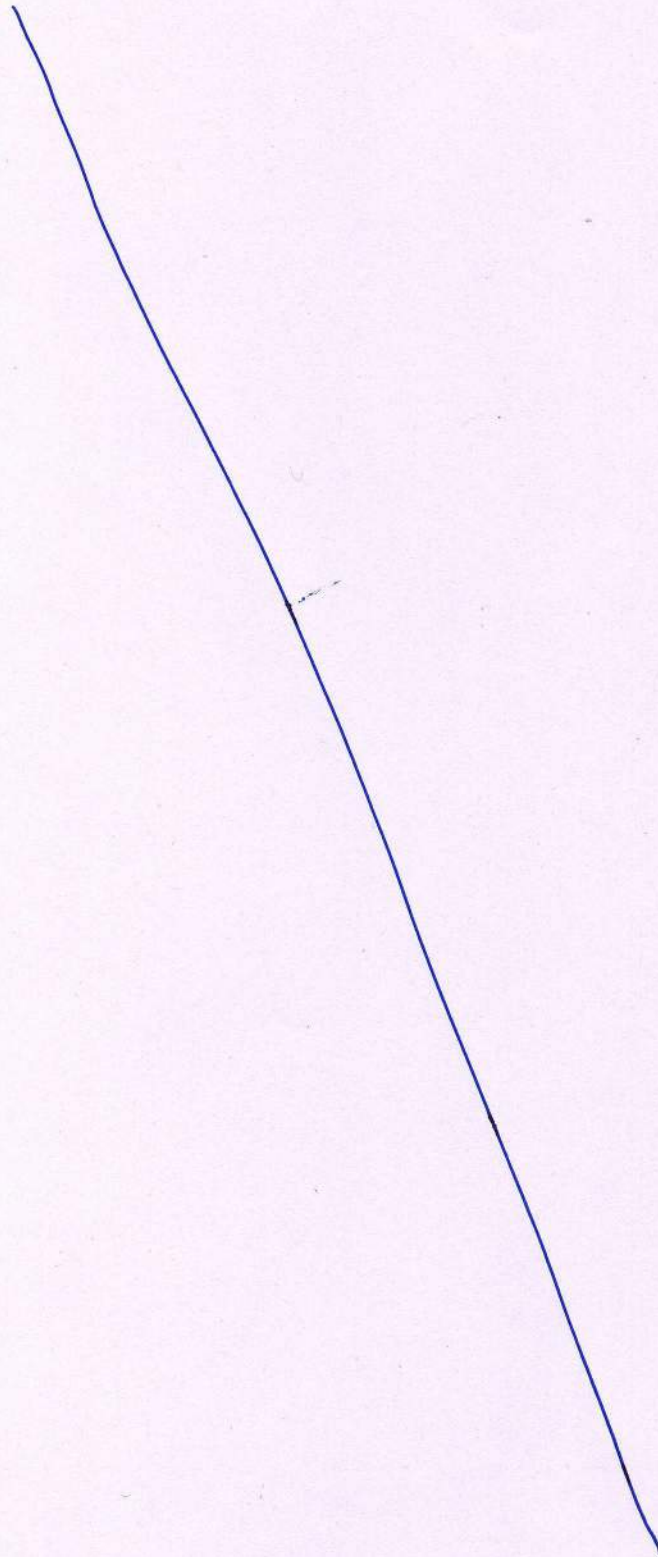
✓ It is also to be noted that NMR did not reduce as much as IMR or MMR over the last decade. One of the reason is that it did not feature in the MDG and did not get adequate attention.

✓ The need for proper intervention measures cannot be stressed enough. children are an invaluable treasure to the country and we must not lose them. The government must collaborate with various civil society organizations to tackle the menace.

18. The four main priorities for education policy have been Access, Equity, Quality and Governance. New education policies should continue to prioritise these four areas, however, there must be greater emphasis on improving learning outcomes at all levels. Discuss.







19. Global Hunger Report (2014) pointed out that the challenge to problem of malnutrition not only includes 'hunger' (lack of food) but also 'hidden hunger'. Define hidden hunger. Give suggestions to address these challenges along with policy interventions undertaken by the government in this regard.

- ✓ Hidden hunger is a chronic lack of micro-nutrients such as vitamins and minerals that often has no visible warning signs, so that people who suffer from it may not even be aware about it.
- ✓ The effects of hidden hunger are very severe. it can lead to mental impairment, poor health and productivity, or even death. one in three people in the world suffer from hidden hunger. Women and children in the low income group of developing countries are the most affected.
- ✓ During adolescence and pregnancy, higher amount of micronutrients are needed but people lack either in money or awareness to prevent the menace.
- ✓ In order to combat widespread deficiencies in iron, India is taking steps to promote iron rich crops such as pearl millet which is rich in micronutrients and can be grown in low rainfall, high temperature regions also.

- ✓ Breeding more nutritious crops is only a part of the solution to tackle hidden hunger. Growing a diversity of nutritious crops will help boost household nutrition. Local people are very important and community groups comprising of village volunteers must address the issue within their community.
- ✓ Agricultural measures such as improved varieties and biofortification will be good solutions in the long run. Supplements to micronutrients can also be provided at subsidized rates in the short term.
- ✓ Education programs and awareness must be created on a mass scale to address this issue on the national forefront. The PDS system can be reformed to include more micronutrients. This will reach a wider section including the marginalized groups.
- ✓ Usage of iodized salt and fortified salt will be useful in tackling ~~iron deficiency~~ iodine deficiency.

✓ The National Nutrition Mission seeks to address malnutrition among women and children under the age of three. Micronutrients should be given greater focus under the scheme.

✓ Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation is also a welcome move that needs to be aggressively pushed.

There is an urgent need to tackle the issue of hidden hunger because it is linked with the economy and is necessary for the development of the country.

20. What are the key concerns raised by the recent casualties at sterilization camps in Chhattisgarh? Identify the changes that can be instituted to make the family planning initiatives in India both safe and effective.

The recent casualties at the Chhattisgarh sterilisation camp has thrown light on the poor standards and procedures followed.

Operating procedures:-

- ✓ It is obvious that standard procedures were flouted. A single doctor and health worker had carried out all the procedures in the camps. According to proper procedure, a surgeon can carry no more than 30 tubectomies on a given day. It is revealed that 83 procedures have been carried out.

Targets:-

- ✓ Another reason for the rampant number of operations is pressure to meet sterilisation targets. Government has increased the compensation amount paid to doctors and women and hence women would not be counselled in the near future.

Gender bias:-

- ✓ Males hardly opt for the sterilisation procedure. Though they get nearly double the compensation amount of women, it has not worked as an incentive.

Tribal problem :-

- ✓ Many of the women who died in the camps were tribals who were literate. But they were not educated enough to know the problems arising from unsanitary conditions or stand up to a doctor to prevent him from conducting the operation.
- ✓ Another problem is the overwhelming focus on sterilisation and hence less than 1% of families use pills and condoms.
- ✓ unsafe and unethical camps are being conducted where the women are exploited. There are no pre-operative screenings or post follow up operation.
- ✓ There is also a possibility that incidents like this can affect medical tourism in the country due to the negative perception.

Strategies :-

- ✓ Men must be made aware and encourage to take up no-scalpel vasectomy method which is safe and has no side-effects or complications. Men must also be urged to share the task of population control.

- ✓ The camp method of sterilisation needs to be stopped as it compromises on hygiene. Care must be taken to ensure good quality medicines and sterilized equipments.
- ✓ competent medical care must be provided for women who develop complications after the surgery. The practise of giving incentives to meet targets must be reviewed and a proper enforceability and accountability mechanism be put in place.
- ✓ There must be proper counselling for women and she must be informed of her choices & her consent must be taken.

The tragedy has been a real eye-opener. We must concentrate on building a robust health care system. The Draft National Health policy can also address these issues.

