



INSIGHTS SECURE Q&A COMPILATION – SEPTEMBER 2014

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GS-1

Indian freedom struggle

Q-The Komagata Maru incident was an act of gross violation of human rights and a landmark event during India's freedom struggle. Critically comment.

In 1914, Komagata Maru ship, carrying 276 migrants from India to Canada was denied to enter by Canadian govt. to enter into Vancouver due to the exclusion law set by Canada as a way to keep out Asian immigrants. The immigrants, who came to Canada due to their worst economic condition back in India, had to stay at the docks for 2 months. They were sent back to India finally.

During these two months stay; there was gross violation of human rights at dockyards. The passengers were denied food and water. Some Asian immigrants and native people supported these passengers by giving supplies to them.

When Komagata Maru reached Calcutta, they were stopped by British gun boat. At the Budge Budge in Calcutta, govt. tried to arrest many passengers. When they tried to resist, British started firing and killed 19 people. Some of remaining arrested and imprisoned for many years.

The Komagata Maru incident was the violation of the human rights especially the right to life, liberty and security. The arresting of passengers was against the principle of prevention from arbitrary arrest, detention and exile. The denial of the Canadian govt. to enter the ship

into Canada and British firing were gross violation of the right to leave any country and to return to home country, in short right to freedom of movement.

The importance of the event in the India's freedom struggle lies in the fact that it created an explosive situation in Punjab. Inflamed by this, the Ghadr leaders decided to launch a violent attack of British rule in India. Many fighters like Kartar Singh, Rasbihari Bose and Sachin Sanyal etc. led the movement. In a number of meetings of the Indian Diaspora in California, prominent Ghadarites used the incident as a rallying point to recruit members for the Ghadar movement and to promulgate plans to coordinate a massive uprising in India.

World history

Q-Critically examine the causes of the relative decline of India and China after the Industrial Revolution in the West.

Prior to the Industrial Revolution, both India and China were important nations of the world. China though was cut off from world trade due to her own volition but was famous for her porcelain and silk while India was famous for its textiles all over the world. In fact, during the middle ages, India was known for her relatively high standard of industrial revolution.

With the advent of colonialism and following the Industrial Revolution, both India and China declined in status.

The causes for China's decline are:

1. The opium trade started by the British ruined China's balance of trade and the stability of its society
2. While China had a monopolistic system of trade, the British were moving towards a *laissez faire* system. The British manufactured goods gained an advantage over Chinese handmade products.
3. The Chinese considered themselves superior to others while the British would refuse to recognise any nation's superiority. This affected trade between the two nations.
4. The Opium Wars and the absence of a central leadership to direct China towards modernization was also an important cause.

The causes for India's decline are:

1. The most important cause for the India's decline is the plunder of Indian wealth by the British to fund innovation in the Industrial Revolution in Britain. The capital requirements of the Revolution were largely funded by the treasures from India.
2. Following the Industrial Revolution, India was transformed into a source of raw materials for Britain's industries and a market for her finished goods. It completely destroyed India's textile industries.

Thus, the period of colonialism saw superior British capital and naval power defeat the economies of India and China.

Indian society

Q-Illustrate with examples the role of philanthropy in development with special reference to India.

Philanthropy in India is gaining momentum. It is emerging as another source for development. The growing number of millionaires and philanthropy organisations such as Aziz premji foundation, Melinda and gates foundation have boosted the sector.

Philanthropy can take several shapes for development. The Azim premji foundation has concentrated and helped immensely in the education sector. Many schools have been adopted. Infrastructure in certain government schools upgraded. An interesting venture of making the students aware of IT, which their company excels in shows how effective and simple interlinking through philanthropy can be.

The Melinda and gates foundation, though foreign has aided the health sector immensely. Launching awareness program's for AIDS and other diseases. Training health sector workers to deal with such diseases. Establishing health care centres.

Several other philanthropists have donated immensely to NGOs working in different sectors. The CSR rules notified by the government is another avenue for philanthropists to give back to the society.

Philanthropy, however suffers from certain issues such as low number of sources available for donating, lack of information about different avenues, lack of transparency of NGOs has hampered confidence in them.

Philanthropy is rooted in our souls and hence will only grow. This it is necessary that the government and other organisations facilitate its growth and make sure its effectiveness is equitable and accessible.

Q-"The political ascendancy of individuals from traditionally marginalised groups has been viewed as a large enough flux that it is believed to have either reversed, or certainly flattened, the centuries-old traditional caste hierarchies." Do you agree with this assessment? Critically comment.

India in 18th and 19th Century saw many social reforms and social reformers to end the discrimination and socially imposed disability on the SC/ST and OBCs. Some of them are SNDP movement, Mahar Movement led by Bhimrao Ambedkar, North India OBC movement. Many of these movements started as socio religious reform movements had turned into anti upper caste and then into political movement, one such example is rise of Dravida Kazagham led by E Ramaswami. Similarly rise of caste based parties in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. This political parties have definitely given a representation of lower castes in the Political arena with some rags to riches stories in between. But, has it done enough, what it was supposed to is still a big question!

The Political Pressure had led to Mandal Commission and reservation for OBCs is definitely an outcome of the Political Movement based on caste representation, the policy have helped more backward caste people appearing in Government Jobs and educational institutes. But, this alone is not enough to bridge the century old gap created by the Caste system. Even today the higher education and white collar jobs sees more representation from Upper caste than OBCs or SC/STs, however the PSU jobs see a reverse trend. The higher education are still seeing a less percentage of backward caste students.

Reservation have played its part in narrowing the gap but real upliftment can't be materialized unless until the political parties believes that they need to work beyond just representation.

GS-2

Judiciary

Q-“Creation of quasi judicial bodies or tribunals is an encroachment upon the power of the judiciary and the principle of separation of powers.” Critically comment

Seperation of power is a basic structure of Constitution, enunciated by SC in various cases. This doctrine faces challenge from Art 323B that allows executive to address specific litigations by appointing tribunals. Hence, the withering of Seperation doctrine is often raised in various quaters.

NEED FOR TRIBUNALS

- (a) Highly specialised cases like tax disputes require expertise in particular domain. Courts often lack in these expertise.
- (b) Pendency amd dispute resolution of coutrs is highly delayed.
- (c) Constitution itself allows executives to establish tribunals.

ISSUES CHALLENGING THE DOCTRINE OF SEPERATION OF POWER

- (a)Tribunals are often headed by executives rather than judges. This ostracize judiciary, which in a vital check on executive.
- (b) The trend of superceding the appellate power of HC has started and may extend to SC in future. This will lead to executive anarchy.
- (c) Executives becoming judges of their own cause will be against the fundamental principle of justice.

Hence, a balance outcome is needed. This may include:

- (a) Equal representation of executives and judiciary in tribunals.
- (b) Expert Amiscus curie may be appointed to aid judges in specialised matters.
- (c) Erosion of appellate power of HC and SC should be refrained from.

These checks and balances will help develop a healthy relationship between Executives and Judiciary and will guard separation of power from any intrusions.

Role of civil services in India

Q-The lateral entry of professionals from outside the civil services into government has long been considered a possible remedy for the apparent weakness of the bureaucratic setup. Do you support this measure? Critically comment.

A perennial problem of civil servants is the steep-learning curve they have to cope with, to deal with new social and technological problems. In such situations, lateral entry of top professionals from the private sector is often sought to bring in their critical domain knowledge. However, it is doubtful that lateral entrants selected ad-hoc by the executive can be a remedy for this weakness of India's bureaucratic setup.

Firstly, lateral entrants have never been accepted whole-heartedly, especially by our closed Indian bureaucratic system. With no established system of recruitment, they are often looked down as being merely a product of political favor. Also, an unsupportive and rigid bureaucracy, who for fear of losing top-level jobs to outsiders in the face of intense competition also creates several transitional problems for lateral entrants. It is no surprise therefore, that the tenure of most of these lateral entrants have been rather short.

As suggested by the 2nd ARC, in order to make lateral entry a viable solution, firstly a system should be set in place defining the rules and criterion for selection. Both private sector professionals and civil servants should be allowed to compete for such top-level jobs. Only such a process can justify the recruitment of outsiders as lateral entrants.

Q-Critically comment on the importance of speed and efficiency for a civil servant in decision making process in day to day administration. How these two traits are tested and inculcated in India for an aspiring bureaucrat? Examine.

The new government seems avowed to speed up the bureaucratic process of decision making, and is getting flowers and brickbats from different quarters for that endeavor. Speed is of essence in decision making. Many bureaucratic decisions have profound implications on social justice and can't be delayed. Economic opportunities are fleeting and must be grabbed at earliest.

However, efficiency is not just the speed of decision making but also the quality of it. Relevant data has to be procured, analyzed, pondered over, opinion sought from experts if required, and only then can a presentable comment of quality be made.

Testing and training

These qualities are tested at the entrance examination level. CSAT Paper II is time crunching exercise. Mains examination asks 25 questions in 1 paper, which amounts to an upper limit of 5000 words. This means that the aspirant has to prove himself able to churn out quality presentable answers in a fast approaching deadline.

Training at LBSNAA focuses on bureaucratic efficiency - both quality and speed - and making opinions presentable. The technique of striking a balance between these is inculcated through rigorous pedagogy. The probationary officers get further on-the-job training for the same

Government policies

Q-In India, in the absence of regulation, surrogacy has transformed into an unfettered, multi-million dollar industry. Examine why surrogacy is on the rise in India and why is there a call for its regulation.

Commercial surrogacy has witnessed a boom in India since 2002, when it was legalised. The main causes of this boom are:

- (a) Urban sedentary and stressful culture causing infertility in one among six couples. This generates a huge demand.
- (b) Cheap medical facilities in India coupled with advanced medical know-how makes it an attractive destination.
- (c) Poverty of women provides an easy access to women breeders and renting of womb.
- (d) Absence of surrogacy law further flourishes this exploitative business.

Though surrogacy is a blessing to childless couples provided it is willing, the exploitative nature of surrogacy has made it a curse in India. The call for its regulation thus emerges as:

- (a) Women are converted in professional breeders to exploit their vulnerability.
- (b) Absence of law further increases the exploitation.
- (c) The attention is only on child and after its birth woman is abandoned jeopardising her health.
- (d) India already has high MMR and cant afford it to shoot further due to commercial surrogacy.
- (e) Serious HR violation like trafficking, prostitution etc are run in disguise of surrogacy.
- (f) With 50% couples from overseas and many countries not allowing nationality to surrogate child, the identity of child hangs in limbo.
- (g) Sex selection, abandonment in case of girl birth etc deteriorates the surrogacy process.
- (h) Women are often forced and the impact on their psychological health is detrimental due to child separation.
- (i) Middle and commission agents gain in absence of clear contracts and women suffers.

This blessing of Science is thus in severe need of regulation considering the ethical issue involved and the growing size of this billion dollar industry in India.

Q-For Aadhaar to live up to its promise, it is also vital to totally segregate it from the work relating to the National Population Register. Examine why and also explain advantages of Aadhaar.

The Aadhaar has been designed to identify the person correctly, make the Government schemes well targeted, remove subsidy leakage and ensure financial inclusion. While the

work of National Population Register is to determine the citizenship of a person which has a huge political connotation which can be seen in places across India specially North East.

It's important to segregate these two and maintain the sanctity of Aadhaar and let the nation get the benefit from this program instead of making it political tool and create a fear and panic among people linked with registration with Aadhaar.

Aadhaar have certain advantages like once it is linked with the person bank account, the much needed Direct Bank Transfer can be initiated to reduce the subsidy and schemes leakages, the falls muster roll of MNREGA can be curbed. Even though it won't be able to directly impact the leakages in PDS system, as error in PDS is an issue of determining BPL people, when the Government himself is confused over the poverty line. But, with time, reduction in poverty level and with Food Security Program launch, Aadhaar can be used to identify the targeted population afresh.

Q-The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme or MGNREGS is now proposed to be implemented only in tribal and backward districts. Critically analyse the implications of this proposal.

Ensuring gainful employment to people is an important function of a welfare state. MNREGA used to focus on 'employment' and gloss over 'gainful'.

The universal nature of MNREGA has led to the following issues:

- a. Lack of agricultural labour: this led to sharp increase in wages leading to food inflation
- b. Increase in liquidity without increase in supply. MGNREGA did not produce productive capital consummate to wages disposed. Therefore demand increased with scant effect on supply side. This led to demand pull inflation especially in rural side.

These effects were more visible in non backward areas, because there the need for such a scheme was low.

What this proposal if implemented will do is:

- a. Bring focus to the scheme by limiting it to areas where it is acutely needed
- b. Limit the large drain on government revenue thus helping to hem in fiscal deficit and revenue deficit.
- c. Tackle previously mentioned problems

It may result in a temporary discontent in the areas from which it is withdrawn, and politicians may try to make most of that situation. The demand in rural side may go down temporarily. But if govt. follows through with financial empowerment that provides really gainful employment, these will be tackled

Q-The Section 436A of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (CrPC) is unlikely to be the solution to the undertrial problem in India. Critically examine.

Supreme Court has passed a widespread media coverage judgment for states, based on Section 436 A of the CrPC, to release under trials who have already served more than half the sentence had they been convicted within two months.

This order will certainly relieve those who have been detained for quite a long time. But, it won't be able to solve the Under Trail Problem of India.

The Under trail problem is defined as number of under trails in proportion to convicts in Indian Prison system. As per a research during the period of 2001-10, 40% of the under trails had been detained for a period less than 3 months and 86% for a period less than 1 year. However, during the same period 75% of the detention was for a period more than 3 years of imprisonment cases. This data shows the judgment would be futile in solving the under trails problems at large.

Every country in this world have a pretrial incarceration provision for a limited period for better investigation and ensure presence of the accused during trails. So, our solution also lies in defining that optimum period of pre trail incarceration.

A possible solution would be to define the period as 3 months but that would again create pathological condition of low conviction and incarceration condition in India. So, this period has to be supplemented with a better, fast track judicial system. Another, issue that need to look at and investigated the high rate of illiterate, low caste and religious minority detention, which this judgment have failed to address.

Q-Examine why is Ebola a concern for India and what should India be doing.

Ebola is a viral disease now rapidly spreading in west Africa, with a very high mortality rate and is spread by contact with body fluids of the infected person. It has been declared as an epidemic by WHO.

Ebola rapidly spreads in following conditions:

- a. Overcrowding as seen in slums
- b. Weak public health systems without adequate resources for early identification and containment of outbreak
- c. Low awareness about ebola and prevention strategies
- d. Communities with low social empowerment, thus limiting access to information and services

These conditions which facilitate rapid spread in Africa, exists in urban slums of India. In todays world which is highly interconnected and has high mobility, it is only a matter of time before the disease reaches India.

Therefore, India should take the following measures:

- a. IEC activities on prevention and awareness
- b. Strengthening public health system
- c. Train and equip medical personnel
- d. Contribute to international efforts

This will help train our personnel by providing exposure and containing the epidemic in Africa itself will forestall its arrival in India

It is fervently hoped that government will take all possible measures to fight this disease, in the interest of India as well as the larger interest of humanity

India- international

Q-India is not keen on finalizing bilateral trade and investment agreement (BTIA) with the USA. Examine why and explain how is BITA different from Free Trade Agreement.

The BTIA and FTA are both the agreements between two countries to help attract investment by one country from other. On one hand more FDI flows in from the host country on the other hand the destination country gives special concessions to the companies of the host country who are willing to invest.

However, it's seems almost same in nature but BTIA have the inherent disadvantage for the destination country as it provisions that any legal issues can be challenged in the international court instead of state court. For example had Novartis investment in India would have been in India under India Switzerland BTIA, then the case of Nexvar could have gone in favor of Novartis, which would have been much against the IPR law and social need of the nation.

USA is pushing for BTIA with India to protect its investments against Indian laws, which will put us on great disadvantage. India is pledging hard to bring foreign capital in India but that should lead to loose on our national determination. We should learn from many examples across the world where developed nations have made many BTIA agreements with third world countries in their heydays to reap the benefit, these countries are paying the cost till date.

Q-Write a note on the recent political developments in Fiji and their impact on Indian diaspora.

Recently Fiji witnessed return of democratic government after a long military rule. This, is very important for Indian Diaspora because -

Fiji contains a large sections of Indians. These Indians migrated as laborers for sugar plantations. During 1987, when military took government in its own hands, then Indians were discriminated and denied several rights. Thus, almost 1/3rd of them migrated to other countries.

Those who, were not able to migrate remained there, and were forced to bear the burnt of discrimination. Thus, return of democracy brings a huge relief to them.

This will restore basic human rights such as judicial rights, justice, liberty, educational and health rights, and biggest of them all is political representation and right to be heard as a section of community.

This, development is highly important, and should be supported by Indian government actively through financial and moral support to democratic government. Efforts should be made, so that military should not again revert back and take rule in its own hand.

Q-The India-China-United States relationship is usually thought of in terms of Grand Strategy. What is Grand Strategy? What's is India's place in it? Critically examine.

Grand strategy literary means entity planning of major goals and long term objectives. The term gained momentum when it was corroborated with America's foreign policy from the beginning of 20th century. It is an elusive and hugely debated term as it was never incorporated in official dealings. Some argue it to be a major part of America's war policy to strengthen its strategic and geopolitical clout. However there seems to be more differences on its veritability as the world enters into a more integrated and dependent era of 21st century.

Rising China and India offered major markets to USA and vice versa, simultaneously the relations among the three are more of economy centric. Interestingly there cannot be any specific 'grand strategy' by these nations at this juncture as any specific wooing is situation based and not guided by any strategic plan.

India, on one hand needs to better its relation with China on border issues and on the other with USA on many trade related issues. The offer of China to invest hugely in Indian market is vital for India at the same time solving differences with USA on pharma issue, service sector etc is critical too. Considering the aspects of US-China huge economic partnership and at the same time differences on US pivot to Asia strategy, it can be inferred how important economic relation is?

India needs to balance its relation without favoring any one of the two. Both seem inevitable considering the strategic and geopolitical engagements that automatically zeroes in economic lanes

International organisations and Groupings

Q-World Food Programme (WFP), the U.N. aid agency finds itself simultaneously responding to half a dozen major crises in addition to helping the largest number of refugees in the world since the Second World War. Write a note on its mandate, structure and functions in the light of ongoing crises.

Hunger is the vilest of all deprivations. WFP works to eradicate that deprivation from the world by focusing on two strategies: one, direct food aid in emergencies, and two, protecting

and enabling livelihoods so that the very need for food aids is eliminated.

It is governed by an executive board representing its member countries. The chairperson is appointed jointly by UN Secretary General and FAO. The chairperson, along with the secretariat takes care of routine administration, whereas the board outlines policies. The WFP is funded by world governments and corporate. Its administrative cost is 7% of budget, which is among the lowest in the world.

The current major crisis it is tackling are the situations in Iraq, Syria, CAR, South Sudan and Ebola outbreak in west Africa.

These emergencies are being dealt with direct food aid. It collaborates with NGOs to access areas where it can't directly go, like the ISIS controlled territory. In the Ebola outbreak it has tied up with the WHO, not only for feeding patients, but also to identify cases. A famine in CAR was averted by using the vehicle of food stamps which also will be employed in South Sudan.

It also provides nutritionally improved products to disadvantaged children. Its major purchase is from developing countries. It also has a program to partner with small farmers, assuring fair price and technology upgradation.

Q-At the heart of recent India - WTO stand-off is the issue of Amber Box quota. Critically comment.

The Subsidies to agriculture under WTO is categorized under Green, Blue and Amber boxes. The first two mainly non-financial supports like technology, irrigation facilities, information etc. but the third one Amber Box is directly financial subsidy. Under Agreement on Agriculture, a de minimis is set on External Reference Price (based on 1987-88 price), the de minimis is 10% for the developing countries and 5% for developed countries. De minimis basically means the maximum distortion allowed over the ERP.

Now, US and European countries have moved most of its subsidy under Green Box and hence they are unaffected in spite of giving huge subsidies to their Agriculture industry. However, developing countries are finding it difficult to extend any MSP or Food Security program, due to, first, categorization under Amber Box and second due to the reference price of 1987-88. The inflation and the dollar to Rupee exchange rate have changed drastically from that time and this reference price is no way realistic.

India is right in pointing that this arrangement need to be changed for ensuring its food security program and eradicating hunger (an MDG). However, the importance of TFA should not be neglected as well, which can help immensely in increasing the trade volume. The developed countries and India should work in tandem to facilitate both the programs, they should understand that FSB is not a price distortion tool but a social welfare program.

Q-The new Global Common Reporting Standard, formulated by Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), will help India in dealing with the menace of black money stashed abroad. Examine.

Global Common Reporting Standard (GCRS) formulated by Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), prescribes for exchange of tax-related and financial

information between different countries, so that tax-evasion could be reduced. This information is to be shared on annual basis.

India is one of highest corrupt countries in world, and has a huge black market economy. This money is transferred in foreign countries, which are considered safe heavens. This information will be given to India under GCRS.

With, this information India can trail back to the source of black money and stop illegal activities in India.

Black money is also a huge source for funding terrorist activities which is a critical challenge for India.

Black money if comes back to India through legal means, India will have enough capital to fund its infrastructure projects, which are critical for fast economic and inclusive development.

Corruption will also reduce, if Black money stashing is stopped.

But, all that glitters is not gold. In this case also, importance of GCRS is huge for India, but its implementation depends on political will of Indian government and its good relations with OECD countries.

Global pressure is needed so that tax heaven countries become transparent, thus reducing the sourcing of drugs and terrorist activities which get funding from such illegal money. India needs to be front leader in such cause as its victim of both illegal money and terrorism.

GS-3

Indian economy

Q-Write a note on NABARD and its role in rural development in India.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was set up in 1982, committed to rural prosperity through intervention of credit and developmental activities.

NABARD focuses its activities on preparation of credit plans, monitoring the flow of ground level rural credit, issuing policy and operational guidelines to rural financing institutions and providing credit facilities to eligible institutions under various programs. It ensures the proper functioning of cooperative banks and regional rural banks.

NABARD's role in rural development can be seen as-

- 1) It has accorded high priority to projects envisaged under Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP) for generating self-employment opportunities in the rural sector.
- 2) It prepares guidelines for promoting group activities under the development program of women and children in rural areas and provided 100% refinance support.
- 3) Training-cum-production Centre for Women- it provides grant to voluntary or

development agencies for setting up of centers which aim at providing vocational/entrepreneurship training centers for women exclusively.

4) Self-Help Group- it has been making efforts to establish linkages between Self-help Group organized by some voluntary agencies for poor people in rural areas and official credit agencies.

5) It also provides refinance to full extent for project taken under National Watershed Development Program and National Mission of Wasteland Development.

6) Vikas Volunteer Vahini Program- it has been organizing farmers club in rural areas particularly in tribal areas, which have proved very helpful for credit institutions in extending credit to poor farmers.

7) External Aid Project- it has been implementing various foreign aided projects. The projects are assisted by World Bank Group, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development, etc.

8) Human Resource Development (HRD) -it provides assistance and support for the training of staff of other credit institutions engaged in credit dispensation for agriculture and rural development.

NABARD ,with its slogan 'Taking rural India forward' (गाँव बढ़े तो देश बढ़े) has been successful in its mission through financial inclusion and issuing millions of Kisaan Credit Cards etc.

Still there are many challenges before it. Innovative Tools of Credit Delivery such as financing of Joint Liability groups (JLGs), Producers Organizations, etc. must be explored and expedited. SHG-Bank Linkage Program, a landmark tool of empowerment and financial inclusion, to be further scaled up. Capacity Building of farmers and villagers need to be on the forefront.

Q-The contribution of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector is immense to the Indian economy. But it also faces many problems. Examine these problems and what policy measures are put in place to address these problems and boost the sector.

MSME is considered as the nursery for entrepreneurs, but still the contributes only 8 % to GDP.

Problems faced by sector :

a) Low technology : Because of low capital , they are not able to harness new technologies , hence, very less value addition to the raw material

b) Lack of skilled manpower: Most of the educated class is attracted towards urban centres and MNC's

c) Small in size: less economies of scale in comparison to big power houses. Production cost increases hence , Low profit .

d) Poor marketing

e) Poor market connectivity

f) Lack of proper transportation system.

To overcome , government has initiated various policies

a) Procurement Policy : Every central ministry shall procure minimum 20% from MSME

sector.

b) Finance : SIDBI, SIDF etc are financial institutions set up for low interest credit facilities to the industry . Venture capital schemes .

c) Taxation : Relief under various sections of Income Tax, Excise , Customs, service tax etc have been introduced to attract entrepreneurs. Subsidies are also provided for setting up.

d) MArketing assistance schemes have been introduced. Eg Ecommerce industries(Flipkart) also initiated to sell products from these sectors.

e) Items have been reserved for MSME sector like khadi etc .,

Q-The union government plans to increase the share of manufacturing sector in GDP from 15 percent to 25 percent. Explain what roadmap or measures does it intend to follow to achieve this goal.

One of the major drawback of Indian economy, specially, after liberalization has been the low contribution of manufacturing industry in the GDP. Many economist have reiterated the skewed demography of India need to focus on manufacturing on a fast track basis to bridge the skill and employment gaps along with high and sustainable development.

The current Government campaign and confidence building measures among national and international industrialists through "Make in India" campaign seems to be the right step in the direction.

It has based its strategy on three measures pillars, which are as follows:

1) Policy: Improving business environment through ease of doing business and de licensing: It has started with the initiatives of removing many red tape procedures and giving online clearances

2) Infrastructure: Building Infrastructure, smart cities, industrial corridors: They have plans to link all four corners of the nation through four main corridors

3) Capital formation: They have liberalized the sectors like Railway, construction and defence to attract more investments

These are definetly the required steps but these are not enough, this also need to be supplemented with some tax restructuring, human skills development, labour reforms and increasing the consumption market.

Q-What do you understand by white-label automated teller machine (ATM)? Why were they launched in India? Evaluate.

White label ATMs are are ATMs set up by non-banking entities. They are not owned by the banks and therefore do not carry the symbol or logo of the bank.

The reasons for the launch of White Label ATMs in India are:

1. The licence provided for setting up White Label ATMs makes it compulsory for the entity to open a certain number of ATMs in Tier 3 to Tier 6 semi urban and rural areas. This helps

to increase ATM penetration

2. It increases financial inclusion by opening ATMs in unbanked areas.
3. Since the first five transactions at a White label ATM are free, the customer can use any of these ATMs and does not have to search for his/her own bank's ATM (I know this is not a valid point, as the 5 transactions made at any bank's atm are not charged, but still :-P)

However, these ATMs have been facing several challenges. Profit making chances are low due to opening of ATMs at unbanked areas. Input costs are high as the entity running the ATM has to recruit security, pay electricity charges etc. The revenues do not match these costs. Even in urban areas, White label ATMs have not been getting enough customers.

It is now hoped that with the government's attempts to increase financial inclusion with the help of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, the White Label ATMs will also get a boost.

Q-In the light of the recent judgement by the Supreme Court of India cancelling coal block allocation to private and public companies, critically examine the causes and consequences of this judgement.

Supreme Court have recently cancelled the coal blocks allocated to various entities and state government mining enterprises who had joint ventures with many private companies on ground of irregularities in allocation and against the Coal Mining Nationalization Acts (CMN Act).

Causes

- 1) The coal blocks during this period have been allocated based on two laws CMN Act and Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957, while CMN act was enacted in 1970 when the mines had been taken over from Private companies but the MMDR Act vests the power to allocate mining rights with state Government. The two acts are very contradictory in nature.
- 2) The captive mining has been kept very vague and directed for specific sector usage of coal from these blocks
- 3) While the guidelines till 2004 on the allocation was very vague, in 2004 a clear policy had been made of open bidding system but still this had been bypassed to favor many private players. These players are going in joint venture with state mining enterprises but mostly operating alone and selling coal in open market when the guideline on captive mining says the end user should be pre-defined

Consequences

It will hurt the business sentiments in India along with already low performing mining sector. It seems like rewinding the wheel back to nationalization. Even though these companies have been given a cooling of period to move out the business and hand over the blocks to CIL, it will lead to loss of investment made already along with sudden increase of

burden on CIL. It will affected the employees too. However, this judgment should be seen as a incremental step towards righteous and ethical practices for future.

PSU

Q-Few years ago Air India was written off. But in recent years it has shown significant improvement in its performance. Examine the reasons for this turnaround.

India's national carrier, Air India, has constantly been under severe financial stress. The calls for privatising the airline are repeated very often. In recent times though, the airline has been staging a recovery.

The main reasons for the turnaround of Air India can be traced to its joining the Star Alliance. The Star Alliance is a global partnership of 27 airlines. Air India joined the alliance in June. As a result, the airline now has code-sharing agreements with as many as 13 airlines. Code sharing agreements will allow Air India to sell seats on the network of other airlines and increase revenues.

Also, the partnership will integrate the frequent flyer programmes of the various airlines, resulting in increased business class occupancy on Air India flights.

In addition to the above, Air India has been improving its performance with better on time arrivals and improved services. It has taken advantage of the grounding of Kingfisher Airlines and taken control of Kingfisher's market share.

Thus, Air India has been seeing better revenues and improved finances. It should take advantage of the Star Alliance membership to remodel itself as a world class airline with a loyal customer base.

Resource mobilization

Q-The restructuring of the Railways Board and challenge of resources mobilization are two crucial aspects of reform of the Indian Railways. In this regard, examine the major issues and recommendations made by various committees.

Railway at this point of time is suffering from many ailments which need immediate attention, the Government has set up the panel to review and create report on the same. However, this is not the first committee which has been set up on this regard. The other two previous committees were Rakesh Mohan Committee in 2001 and Sam Pitroda Committee in 2012. Both the committee had two common recommendation wrapped in differently presentable styles. These are resource Mobilization and Railway Board restructuring.

Resource Mobilization

It includes Funding and Human Resources. Railway not only making year on year losses

(except a few green years) but also suffering from huge fund gap. Even after budget allocation, it needs much more to modernize itself. Disinvestment, PPP model and commercializing railway resources like land and hospitals are the viable option. Human resource costing railway a huge amount of money, so, it's important to channelize it using best HR practices like hiring skilled people only, training at all levels, linking pay with performance etc.

Railway Board

The current railway board structure is a British legacy with minute changes post independence, its main energy and time goes in interacting with ministry and other political units instead of focusing on business. The Chairman post should be replaced with CEO position, separate vertical for each business and decentralization of power and decision making at the zonal level.

However, this alone won't be sufficient to cure the suffering railway, the focus should also go on modernising core assets, new revenue models, project execution and enablers like safety standards

Environment conservation

Q-Write a note on the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument

The Pacific Remote Islands Monument, established in 2009 is an important part of the most widespread collection of marine life on the planet under a single country's jurisdiction. This area sustains a diversity of species including corals, fish, shellfish, marine mammals, seabirds, land birds, insects, and vegetation not found anywhere else in the world. Many threatened, endangered, and depleted species thrive in the Pacific Remote Islands, including the green turtle, pearl oyster, reef sharks, coconut crabs, bumphead parrotfish, dolphins and whales. The Pacific Remote Islands contain some of the most pristine coral reefs in the world, and Monument status ensures these special areas are conserved.

On 25 Sep 2014, US president Obama has expanded the area under this monument nearly six times, from almost 87,000 square miles to more than 490,000 square miles. This new expanse includes many underwater mountains where rare and undiscovered species are frequently found.

Commercial fishing, dumping, and mining will be prohibited in the reserve, but recreational fishing will be allowed with permits, and boaters may visit the area. This was done in the wake of the urge by the environmentalists to limit the impact of fishing, drilling, and other activities that threaten the world's most species-rich waters

Q-The concept of Green Building is catching up fast in the building sector in India. Write a critical note on this concept.

Urban ecosystems are energy sponges that create their own heat islands. With 40% of that energy consumed only by the buildings, their energy efficiency is gaining importance. Hence the concept of 'Green Building' has gained currency in urban infrastructure.

Green building are those building that saves 30% to 50% of their otherwise energy consumption by adopting architectural and engineering design and low energy machines. Yet, the concept needs a contemplation to test its efficacy.

Necessity of green rating?

- (a) To bring energy efficiency at forefront to address energy security.
- (b) To develop sustainable urban ecosystem.
- (c) To make a preemptive measure to adjust with future obligations of climate change.
- (d) To increase aesthetic appeal of the abode where humanity will reside.

Are green buildings actually green?

Mere assumption of reduced consumption dont qualify them for the coveted green tag. A design should be such that it automatically reduces energy consumption by nova approaches like wind tunnel design, Day light saving design consedering wind and sun orientation, rain water harveting and solar enrgy generation. Using efficient machines to hide bad design should not qualify green tag. For eg practices like 5star ACs to cools glass heated building is a fraud on green rating.

The need of green buildings is pressing considering the precarious energy security we stand at. But this should not allow cheating to earn green norm by hiding faulty designs. Simultaneously, audits on performance is necessary to ensure that complainece is not forfeited.

Q-Examine how private sector can be involved in conserving wildlife in India.

Wildlife shares a precarious relationship with humans in their quest for development. The threat posed can be reduced by assimilating development with conservation by associating flag bearers of development ie private sector.

The corporate social responsibility funds can serve as a financing mechanism for multiple activities like:

- (a) Purchase of forest corridors to ensure mobility and flourishing gene pool.
- (b) Funding veteniary R&D and autopsy centres to ascertain causes posing health threats to wild animals.
- (c) Adoption schemes to finance an adopted tract of wildlife habitat.
- (d) Creating awarenes among people by mass media campaign and also through their products.
- (e) By ensuring that their manufacturing processes are environment friendly.
- (f) By locating industries away from forest.

- (g) By various tribal livelihood security schemes that ensure that tribal stay in harmony with nature and conserve their revered forest.
- (h) By financing digitisation endeavor to conserve traditional knowledge associated with wild life conservation.
- (i) By globally collaborating to act as pressure groups to advocate conservation schemes.

Q-The Centre is moving towards a revenue-sharing system for oil exploration contracts from the time-tested policy of production sharing. Examine the difference between the two systems and explain why the Centre is moving towards a new system.

Refer- <http://insightsonindia.com/2014/10/23/indias-energy-security-oil-and-gas-sector/>

Q-Indian Agricultural Research Institute's (IARI) 'postal-agri extension' program has proved boon to many remote farmers. Write a note on the program.

Innovation coupled with collaboration is the essence of inclusive growth. In this decade of innovation IARI 'postal extension program', in collaboration with Indian Postal Department, epitomises this approach. This extension programme is aimed to usher new revolution in extension services to agricultural sector.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

To utilise the vast network of IPD to extend new technology and seeds to farm land in a cost effective and locally acceptable manner.

MODEL

PAE is based on three tier model. IARI provide seed packets to state level Krishi Vigyan Kendras. KVK post these packets to selected local postman. These postman, who get free seeds and are trained to address agricultural problems, act as technology demonstrators at local level. Their local link enhances the acceptability of seed and also the reach of programme.

BENEFITS OF PAE

- (a) Extension of new technology from labs to fields without time lag.
- (b) Region specific extension programme can be designed.
- (c) Increase in crop yield.
- (d) Farmer can be easily convinced to diversify crops under the influence of local postman.

Sustainability of the agriculture depends equally on R&D and its extension to fields. PAE is a thus a step towards sustainable agriculture. It should be coupled with ATMAS to further enhance its efficacy.

Space related

Q-India's recent success in its maiden Mars mission is a result of technology denial to India by the West. Examine.

ISRO has been successful in putting The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) into orbit around the Mars on its first attempt. This ISRO has proven its ability to plan and execute long term missions. This success shows that technology denial regime can't stop a country like India in achieving its noble missions.

Most of India's space program is of indigenous origin due to the global technology denial regime. The US and European nuclear phobia was one of the major reasons for this.

India's first nuclear test in 1974 provoked the major world powers to put India under the sanctions regime, and the phase of India's technological apartheid began. India was denied technological assistance not only in nuclear sector but in other sectors as well.

During early late 1980s and 1990s India was keen to develop the GSLV for the launch of satellites to geostationary orbit. To undertake such a launch, India needed to develop cryogenic engine technology. India was likely to get the technological from Russia. However, the US pressured Russia against transferring the required technology to India.

Western countries feared that any technological transfer in this field would eventually be diverted towards a ballistic missile development program for delivering a nuclear weapon, a violation of Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). It was not appreciated that India's missile program and space program are entirely two different programs. The space program was a typical civilian program.

India started its GSLV program and ISRO started the process of indigenous development of a cryogenic engine. By 2014, India successfully launched its indigenously built cryogenic engine. This success was extremely crucial and a great morale booster for ISRO's future plans. Now India is in a position not only to launch its own large satellites on its own but also offer launching services on commercial terms.

Due to technology denial regime, Indian scientists and researchers made efforts to develop things by themselves and Mars Orbit Mission (MOM) was built fully indigenously. This also led to reduction in cost of the mission.

Q-Explain the role of family in inculcating values in its members. Examine which values are most important for a person to lead ethical life in a society.

Family is an incubation centre where values are inculcated. These values are mooring that guide us when faced with challenging situations in life. Thus a foundation is laid in the form of values that determines the ultimate success of life.

A family is a small community where we not only learn values but also rehearse it on daily basis. This ensure that values are internalised and becomes a part of our reflex system that automatically gets actuated in difficult times. The family thus provides us a skeleton in form of values which determine our social inetraction once we stepout. Though the values enriches with time but the skeleton provided by the family detremine the actual enrichment process. Hence it is rightly said "habits stay with life".

While a list of value inculcated by family is long, three most important one are:

- (a) Empathy: Our ability to understand others by stepping into their shoes is developed when we interact with our family members. The care and love for family members ignite an inextinguishable flame of empathy in our hearts making us kind in social disposition.
- (b) Community life: Famliy is a small community that prepares us for the actual community life. It inculcates socialising behaviour and emotional intelligence necessary for a community life.
- (c) Truthfulness: 'Speak truth' is a common cliché yet most vital lesson of early childhood. It guards us from vices of corruption, cruelty, negligence and unaccountability in our life.

Hence, a family is small theatre that prepare us for the ultimate stage called society. What we learn in family determine the contours of our life.