



**GENERAL STUDIES (Test Code : 297)**

Overall Macro comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1. Your answers are good, well structured and organised.
2. I don't find any problem in your writing
3. Keep it up!
4. All the best!
- 5.

All The Best



1. (a) List the salient provisions of the recently approved 'National Early Childhood Care and Education' policy. In this context, also discuss the performance and challenges of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. 20

Early Childhood Care & Education is so important that it is under the Directive Principles (Art 45) as well as a desirable (but not mandatory) provision in the RTE Act.

The policy tries to achieve:

- universal early childhood care for children from 0 to 6 years. 6 months to 6 years
- Quality, equity & universality would be its 3 pillars.
- It would leverage the ICDS infrastructure including Anganwadi Centres.
- It would pay special attention to nutritional needs for children < 3 years.
- It would seek to give pre-school training to children to prepare them

- for formal schooling from 6 years.
- coches would be opened in suganwadi
  - children friendly infrastructure would be installed
  - Existing stage of lansiez faire would not be allowed to continue.
  - Private operators would be regulated and national quality standards set.
  - Mother Tongue would be the 1<sup>st</sup> choice
- In this context performance of ICDS should be noted. Running since 1974, it covers nearly ~~25~~<sup>7</sup> crore children today & provides supplementary nutrition to children below 6 years.
  - But as many surveys, including Hungara Report point out, child malnutrition is higher in India than even Sub-Saharan Africa & Bangladesh.



CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED IN ICDS

- CAG has found gross irregularities, diversion of funds, unauthorized activity & lack of monitoring in the scheme.
- The scheme lacks administrative focus.
- No provision to connect inputs to outcomes. No focus on outcomes.
- Lack of resources, trainings, poor pay to groundlevel operators, lack of awareness

1. (b) Analyze the hurdles that are being faced in the implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act and the possible steps that could be taken to address the situation. 20

Thanks to RTE, and the administrative focus it received, India has achieved nearly universal enrolment in primary schools, including girls.

But many hurdles still remain.

1. Outcomes have been poor: Many surveys, including ACER, say oversot of class 5 students can't solve head class

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good answer

2. level problems properly. No attempt has been made to translate inputs into learning outcomes.
2. Attendance: Enrolment doesn't ensure child attendance & surveys have found attendances of only 75%.
3. Schools throwing out children of poor parents who came through RTE:  
Schools have to allow 25% children from poor. But it is seen, these children are discriminated against in the school & later thrown out. The Grievance redressal mechanism has long delays & is not easily accessible.
4. Special provisions for differently abled children are lacking in practice.
5. There is lack of resources. There is



a shortage of over 3 million teachers to achieve 30:1 ratio; lack of toilets, open roof classrooms etc.

6. Some of the requirements like having a playground are tough to meet.

This gives discretionary powers to regulators & breeds corruption.

#### STEPS TO IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION

- to improve learning, children must be grouped according to learning outcomes achieved, instead of age.
- special training for teachers, summer classrooms for children.
- PRIs & parents' bodies should be given more control over school. At least transparency & accountability be ensured.
- Grievance redressal needs to be invested with more resources & made accessible.
- Some of the stipulations need pragmatic revision.

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keep it  
up!

1. (c) Evaluate the economic implications of the Food Security Act. 20

The Food Security Act is a landmark legislation which creates a statutory right to food (5 kg per capita per month) at highly subsidised prices, for nearly 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of our population.

A legislation of this magnitude is certain to have huge implications, some of which are:

1. Fiscal burden: While it is almost certain to increase the food subsidy, by how much is a question where the critics and supporters vary widely. Critics such as Gutata, put the <sup>burden</sup> ~~increase~~ at Rs 2 lakh crore p.a. but their numbers are highly inflated and include huge costs such as those incurred for increasing agricultural production, which would have been incurred even without



the food security also. The govt. puts the burden at Rs 125,000 crore.

2. Inflation: It is likely to be inflationary as the poor will now spend their income saved on other items. Similarly additional fiscal subsidy would be inflationary.

3. Growth: ~~while~~ critics argue it would be anti-growth as increased govt. spending would crowd out private investment. But in reality, it would spur growth in present recession due to following reasons:

- additional demand it generates as discussed above will boost industry.
- agriculture production would increase giving a supply side boost.
- People would be well fed. This would improve nutrition, human capital & their ability to work.

4. Equity aspects: It would massively help the poor and would increase equity.

This alone should be a sufficient reason to support it. Don't they have a right to live properly?

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5. Agriculture production: would go up due to increased procurements & MSPs.
  6. Trade: This may worsen as there would be less exportable surplus & we may have to import in bad years.
  7. Cropping pattern: would shift towards cereal production.
  1. (d) Bilateral relations between India and Sri Lanka in the post LTTE period have witnessed phases of cooperation as well as trust deficit. Discuss. 20

Sri Lanka is the only south Asian nation to have an FTA with us & is an increasingly favored destination to many Indian investments. Yet the recent developments have made our bilateral relationship a very delicate one.

#### COOPERATION IN RELATIONSHIP

- India supported Sri Lanka fully in its final stages of LTTE war.



- After the war, India committed itself to reconstruction in Sri Lanka including restarting a port, in Jaffna, constructing 50,000 houses & other aid.
- India welcomed Sri Lankan intention to constitute the Lesson Learnt & Reconciliation Committee (LLRC), held provincial council elections in north & "13<sup>th</sup> Amendment + " promise of Rajapakse.
- Trade & Investment grew & many new projects in private sector are in pipeline.

#### COMPLICATIONS IN RELATIONSHIPS

- But then Sri Lanka began to renege on the promises made to integrate Tamilians & devolve power.
- "13<sup>th</sup> Amendment + " became "13<sup>th</sup> Amend. minus" as land & police powers were taken away.
- Even the merger of North & East was

declared invalid.

- No attempts were made to implement LLRC recommendations.
- Competitive politics in Tamil Nadu forced <sup>our</sup> govt.'s hands and we had to:
  - support a country specific UNHRC resolution against Sri Lanka. Though we got it watered down, but it increased the trust deficit massively.
  - TN assembly passed a specific resolution against Sri Lanka calling it a genocide & war crimes.
  - There are misapprehensions about the PM missing the Commonwealth meet in Colombo. ~~If this happens~~, it would be a big push back factor.
  - Presence of China & Pakistan complicates things. relationship.
  - Violence against Sri Lankans in India.

#### THE WAY FORWARD

- The Tamil National Alliance has near popular mandate. We should reduce our competitive politics.

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good answer



1. (e) Discuss the role of Pressure Groups in Indian polity. Are they strengthening or hindering our democracy? 20

Pressure groups are a heterogeneous section of ~~groups~~ organisations, which

i) are non governmental in nature.

ii) ~~they~~ exist to put pressure on the govt. to frame policies & laws in ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> their ~~demand~~ <sup>interests</sup>.

iii) ~~operate~~ <sup>represent</sup> certain sections of society. ~~peacefully.~~

• This is a diverse group & ~~many~~ <sup>each</sup> type may have a specific role:

- Corporate groups: These may be ~~like~~ <sup>general</sup> like FICCI & CII representing overall business interests or may represent a particular or ~~group~~ of corporates.

In this ~~role~~ <sup>role</sup> they ~~would~~ be called lobbyist. Their importance has grown immensely post the 1991 economic reforms. Now ~~the~~ <sup>govt.</sup> ~~consults~~ <sup>consults</sup> them on virtually all business matters.

- groups representing labor, women, peasant etc. They could be unions or NGOs. They could be issue specific or permanent nature. The vital role played by women groups after December 16 rape <sup>in</sup> legislative amendments is well known.
- Activist NGOs like Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh Samiti (RTI); India Against Corruption (Lokpal).
- Other NGOs like Hungama, ACER which conduct survey & present findings to persuade the govt. into action.
- Location specific groups such as Resident Welfare Associations.
- Caste or religious groups such as Qurjor Saraksham Samiti in for reservation.
- Professional groups which are recognised such as for IAS, lawyers, doctors.
- Unorganised citizen groups like Delhi Rape protest groups. They are highly issue specific & heterogeneous.



EFFECT ON DEMOCRACY

- Democracy means govt. ~~must~~ listen to people & ~~pressure~~ groups are aiding here.
- But when they turn to unconstitutional or illegal means, they are harming the democracy. eg. lobbying mixed with bribing (Nira Radia Tapes); use of violence & blockade of Rajasthan by Gurjar Sarakshon group.
- It is argued that anti-corruption & Delhi rape protest groups undermine parliament. But no. Undermining was done by those inside who became <sup>insensitive.</sup>
- 2. (a) "Can mother tongue or regional language be imposed by the States as a medium of instruction for primary school students" – this question is to be decided by a constitutional bench in the Supreme Court. Analyze the various issues involved and their possible implications. 15

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The state can certainly decide the policy to be followed in the govt. run and aided schools. But such a policy should be decided keeping in mind the best interests of child.

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF LOCAL LANGUAGE

- Studies show that learning outcomes are best when the medium of instruction is child's mother tongue.

- This will boost the regional languages and rekindle the interest.

### ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Future of the child: In today's globalised world, to good command over English is a must. The child would lose so much if we force her towards regional language. She would get through IIMs because of her English, not Kannada or Maithili. In any company she would be working, she would be using English, not Tamil.
- Individual freedom: If a person wants to her child to learn English, ~~or to~~ then why is state interfering & forcing her to learn Kannada.
- Minority rights: Minorities have constitutionally guaranteed fundamental right to preserve their language. Such



a more would swamp their language.

- Narrow Political Intent: Most of the primary schools would already be using mother tongue. What is the ~~need~~<sup>be need</sup> of making it compulsory? This may just be a language chauvinism ploy.

- Against Indian Culture: Indian culture has always been open & assimilatory. This is a ~~retrograde~~ step, shutting ourselves down.

2. (b) What is meant by social accountability? How can it help in improving implementation of welfare programs in India? 15

Social accountability means that the govt. officers & departments become more answerable and responsible to the society they serve at large.

Its key components are:

- RTI: This ensures the flow of information to the public so that they can ask right questions.
- Citizen Charters: which clearly communicate the services & quality provided

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- feedback mechanism: citizens should be able to give feedback. ~~But~~ this feedback should not fall on deaf ears. There have to be institutional mechanisms to incorporate it meaningfully into organisational processes reforms.
- strong grievance redressal
- stakeholder empowerment like parents' body for RTE
- social audits; public awareness; & strengthening of PRIs.

#### HOW CAN IT HELP?

- Indian welfare systems have failed because they exclude the citizen from having a meaningful say in running the program. eg. NRHM, ICDS.
- But where social accountability practices have been strong, those



programmes have largely succeeded.  
eg. NREGA. Even in NREGA, states which  
follow social audits, public campaigning  
like Rajasthan have succeeded more.

- PDS reforms are a very good eg. of how  
social accountability can reform even  
the most defunct systems. eg. in  
Chattisgarh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu.  
whereas in UP, Jharkhand it still is defunct.
- 2. (c) In the context of recent attacks and incidents in cyber realm, discuss the  
need for an international cyber security law to protect international peace  
and security.

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Some of the recent incidents such as

- NSA's PRISM program
- cyber attacks by China on US, India
- cyber attacks on Iran & Syria (Stuxnet  
and flame viruses)
- Global ATM heist involving multiple nations.  
have highlighted some serious flaws  
in international internet security, like
- US' dominance over Internet: Almost  
all major Tech companies are US. ~~the~~ Major  
data flows through US or is stored

there. US can easily force ~~these companies~~  
under PRISM ~~to spy~~ on everyone.

- ICANN and global top level domains :

ICANN, a USA based NGO, decided to ~~control~~  
arbitrarily the global top level domains  
such as .book, .beauty. ~~Internet~~ <sup>Internet</sup> is a  
world property, not private.

- Multiple jurisdictions : In ~~most~~ cyber  
attacks, including ~~financial~~ frauds, the  
attack may take place in some country,  
victim may belong to one & attacker  
may be in ~~another~~. With so many  
jurisdictions involved, proper investigation  
& action becomes difficult.

- Threat to global peace : These cyber attacks,  
specially ~~spying~~, ~~cyber warfare~~, <sup>increase</sup> ~~literally~~  
international hostilities and are a threat.

~~Any~~ WHAT GLOBAL LAW CAN DO?

- The global law should recognise that  
internet is a global common like  
~~space, oceans, Antarctica~~. So all its



- hostile uses like cyber attacks, spying must be stopped.
- The law should democratise the internet governance & put it under UN. This way PRISM, Icanm incidents can be avoided.
  - The law can provide for a framework for international cooperation in cases of cross border cyber attacks.

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2. (d) Can NOTA alone solve the problems of the Indian democratic system? Analyze. 15

NOTA (None of the Above) is a positive step. This provision was already under Rule 49 of Election Rules but that violated privacy. NOTA option will uphold one's privacy. But its main force is moral. But to expect it alone to solve problem is too much, because:

- NOTA notes ~~will not alter~~ <sup>for all practical</sup> purposes, would be treated like invalid notes while counting.
- Even if NOTA gets highest number of

- a real  
notes, <sup>a real</sup> candidate securing highest number  
of votes would still be declared winner.  
So nothing changes at ground level.
- Even the Supreme Court said its impact  
would put moral pressure on political  
parties to field clean candidates. There  
are already enough <sup>moral</sup> pressures & yet  
they don't reform. So relying on mo-  
rality from political parties is a bit  
too optimistic.
  - Instead Electoral Reforms should focus  
on some other main things:
    - spending limits in elections are kept  
unrealistically low, supposedly to  
create level playing field for poorer  
candidates. But they only force the  
parties to pick candidates who  
can use black money.



- Party funding should be completely transparent. It should be voluntary like AAP & ~~also this aspect of parties needs to be brought under RTI.~~

- Education level of people needs to go up. This alone can solve problems such as dynastic politics, communalism, casteism. People then would realise the harm caused by all this.

2. (e) The progress of Indo-China relationship depends on "strategic benchmark" as well as "strategic assurance". Explain. 15

China's recent manoeuvres such as Despang Valley incursion & selling  
2 new nuclear reactors to Pakistan

have forced India to seriously rethink its policy towards China.

- Thus while earlier India always tried to downplay the complex issues like border, POK, tinners & instead she hoped trade would carry the relationship.

- But in recent PM's visit to Beijing,

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India clearly articulated that all the positives of the relationship would be seriously jeopardised if the 'strategic' concerns ~~issues~~ were not addressed respected.

- These strategic concerns were:

1. strategic benchmark: This refers to maintaining peace & tranquility on the border & mutually agreeable use of trans-national rivers.

2. strategic assurance: This <sup>means</sup> ~~refers~~ neither side would take foreign policy actions to which threaten the security of other side. eg. Chinese works in POK, nuclear reactor sale to Pakistan.

- This would also mean India not joining any anti-China alliance.

- We recently concluded Border Defense Cooperation Pact & MoU on transborder



Miners address the benchmark (hopefully).

- The remaining 5 points of PM's 7 point programme to improve relationship are

1. People to ~~people~~ contact
2. Increased trade & investment
3. respect for each other's ~~core~~ concerns.
4. cooperation on ~~multilateral~~ forums
5. Building trust in periphery (PoK)

Let us hope China makes the talk.

2. (f) Development and inclusion have to go hand in hand. Examine this statement in the context of Rajiv Awas Yojana. 15

Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY), ~~is~~ <sup>a</sup> part of JNNURM, ~~seeks~~ <sup>seeks</sup> to provide ~~shelter~~ <sup>decent</sup> with basic amenities to the urban slum dwellers.

This scheme strikes a balance between development & inclusion & creates a win win situation.

#### DEVELOPMENT ASPECT OF RAY

- The construction activity envisaged in RAY is massive and is expected to

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answer  
Keep it  
up

- give a boost to the sector as well as others like cement, steel, <sup>banking</sup>, etc.
- The scheme is expected to generate massive employment.
  - It is expected to boost the productivity of slums & hence city economy.
  - It would develop human capital, which is essential for growth.

#### INCLUSION ASPECT OF RAY

- It would give proper housing and basic amenities to slum dwellers - who are otherwise neglected.
- The housing has to be provided in situ, thus eliminating the case where slum dwellers would be pushed to city fringes.
- Thus this protects the livelihood - shelter linkage of the slum dwellers as well.



- The property given would be non transferrable but ~~mortgageable~~. Must they ~~can~~ access bank loans and start new livelihood.
- The property would be given in the name of the female also. Must element of gender inclusion.
- Must a proper implementation of the scheme can benefit India immensely.

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3. (a) Write a short note on the Chemical Weapons Convention? 10

The Convention recently came to limelight in the context of Syria & IOCW Nobel peace prize.

The Convention seeks to prevent the kind of chemical weapon attacks which happened in Syria.

It does this by:

- i) requiring all member nations to declare their chemical weapon stockpiles and production & storage

infrastructure.

- (ii) When these are destroyed under the watch of IOCW (International organization for chemical weapons).
- (iii) The capability for further production of chemical weapons is also destroyed.

- The convention declares all chemical weapons and their use as illegal.

- The convention is non discriminatory unlike NPT (Nuclear Non proliferation Treaty). Thus all member nations, including the P-5, have to destroy their stockpiles.

- However, the organization monitoring its implementation (IOCW) ran into controversy for opposing George Bush's assertion of chemical weapons in Iraq.



3. (b) List out the measures suggested by MM Punchhi Commission regarding the office of Governor. 10

The office of governor has been heavily politicised and its dignity eroded by some holders. To prevent it, Punchhi Commission recommended:

1. Appointment: The recommendations of the Sankaria commission must be implemented in letter & in spirit i.e.
  - Chief minister should be consulted.
  - person should be detached from active politics.
  - person should be eminent.
  - should be ~~not~~ from outside of the state.
2. Removal: The present system of removal "at pleasure" must be replaced by fixed tenure of 5 years. If the govt. must remove him, reasonable opportunity must be given to him & the reasons for removal must be

tabled in the parliament. He should  
~~3. Reserving return to active politics.~~

3. Reserving Bills for president's consideration:

such power should be done away with  
 except where constitutionally required.

At least money bills shouldn't be  
 reserved. A time limit of say 3 months  
 should be imposed for such consideration.

3. (c) Explain the objectives and structure of 'Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation'?

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Don't write  
anything this  
margin  
(इस भाग में  
कुछ ना लिखें)

3. (d) Write a note on the Anti-Superstition and Black Magic Ordinance promulgated recently in Maharashtra.

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- The ordinance was promulgated recently after the ~~the~~ murder of Mr. Dhalodkar who had ~~for long~~ ~~ago~~ worked against superstition & black magic.
- He had demanded this law. But sadly, during his lifetime, the law could never be passed as it was opposed by ~~hinder~~ right extremists. It is alleged that he lost his life at the hand of one such extremist group.
- The ordinance provides for strict punishment for people involved in black magic & such activities.
- It also makes it illegal for ~~peop~~ unscrupulous elements to exploit



people's superstitious to and perform  
black magic etc

- It is an irony that in this modern age, despite our fundamental duty to promote scientific temper, the people opposed to scientific thinking find political backing - apparently in the name of 'religion'.

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4. (a) Tamarod

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4. (b) e-Bharat Project

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One of the major e-governance projects in India, it seeks to improve the efficiency of the ~~govt~~ government & make its services more citizen friendly.

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4. (c) Justice MB Shah Commission

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The commission was appointed to report on the state of ~~the~~ <sup>illegal</sup> ~~the~~ ore mining in India. Due to the reports of this commission only, the ~~illegal~~ <sup>illegal</sup> mining in Karnataka & Goa were exposed & banned.

~~But~~ the commission was ~~not~~ <sup>due</sup> to visit Chattisgarh ~~new~~ - a major mining state. But the govt. refused to extend its term - without citing any reasons.

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4. (d) Ergenekon

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