

ESSAY

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate

- Both sections are compulsory.
- Attempt an essay from each section.
- Each essay carries 125 marks.
- Write each essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- After finishing the first essay, attempt the next on a fresh Page.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

Remarks

(Examiner will pay special attention to the candidate's grasp of his/her material, its relevance to the subject chosen, and to his/her ability to think constructively and to present his/her ideas concisely, logically and effectively).

Name ACHIN GARE

Mobile No. _____

Date 11/10/15

Signature Admiral

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

SECTION - A

1. There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.
2. Poverty is not just a economic condition.
3. In this world, fear has no place; only strength respects strength.
4. It is always difficult to fight against faith than against knowledge.

SECTION - B

1. Law and order is the medicine of the body politic, and when the body politic gets sick, medicine must be administered.
2. The danger of the past was that men became slaves, the danger of future is that they may become robots.
3. A free and fair election is not possible without media.
4. Indian Democracy at Crossroads: Need of Good Governance.

Section - A

Q. Poverty is not just an economic condition.

Ans-

The combined wealth of top 25 richest persons on the planet is greater than the entire Gross Domestic Product of Africa.

The above statement may be an economic measurement of the level of inequality and deprivation which almost a billion people in the world face, but in no way makes poverty merely an economic condition.

The prevalence of social discrimination, social diseases, slums, ^{or the} lack of political benefits, political apathy, misgovernance, or the looming threats of environmental degradation, global warming and climatic change & so on make poverty a grave

social, political and environmental conditions. This automatically requires a holistic approach using multi-pronged strategies for the complete eradication of poverty.

Poverty, for long, has been viewed merely as an economic problem and consequently depicted in oversimplified calorie or income methods. Specifying a poverty line at ₹ 32/person/day necessary for meeting his daily calorie requirement is a recent example of this. Even the World Bank defined poverty line at \$1.25/day which was recently updated to \$1.9/day.

Although these institutions themselves agree that a number has been assigned for better measurement and targetting, it is more of convenience and calculation ease which leads to this oversimplification of poverty.

The equivalence of a serious problem as poverty ^{with a necessity on economic condition} has various huge ramifications. It not only restricts the understanding of poverty but also affects the measures required for its redressal. The focus shifts entirely towards raising income levels without addressing the other important aspects of poverty - such as social, political and environmental dimension.

Poverty is a bigger social problem. When communities are displaced for some economic development projects, then the project affected people do not merely lose their employment, but also it also destroys their livelihood and familial and social structures. As an economic condition, the measures would include economic rehabilitation such as compensation or a job to one person in the family.

However, for people living in poverty this ruins their relationship with land and environment. Due to the lack of skills often they are forced to undertake inferior jobs which barely fetches them enough for survival. Further, the joint

family breaks down as the person who received the job moves out to form a nuclear family. This further pushes the rest of the members into deep into deprivation. In such cases the tribals and the marginal landholders are hit the maximum.

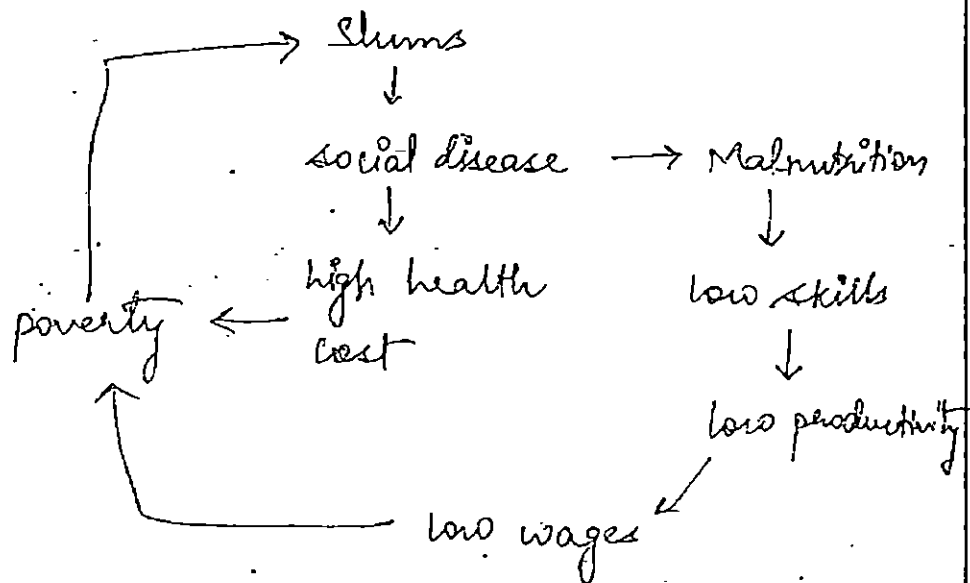
The lack of opportunities in backward and poor regions often leads to distressed migration. This not only leads to cause economic exploitation of the migrants but also problems of slums and ghettos in urban centres. The inhuman working condition such as those faced by the domestic help in Saudi Arabia Arabia which was recently in news due to

brutal chopping of head of a migrant from Tamil Nadu, are not stray incidents of exploitation.

In the cities, the slums are some of the most unhygienic and disease prone regions. The lack of basic amenities such as sanitation, water, power, etc forces slum people to lead a miserable life. This often causes spread of social diseases such as TB, HIV AIDS, malaria, diarrhoea, etc which not only puts additional economic burden on poor but also leads to problems of malnutrition and low cognitive skills.

The ensuing absenteeism from schools and workplace

lowers their productivity and consequently the earning potential. Thus, it pushes them into a vicious cycle of poverty as shown-



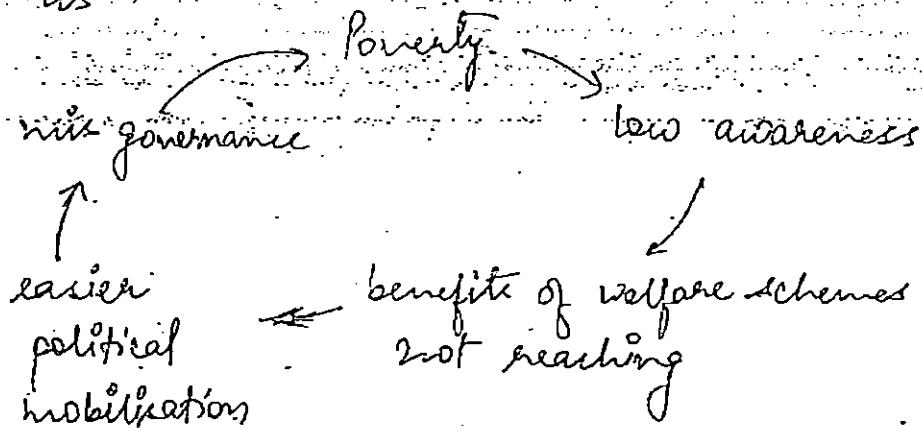
Poverty as a social condition further aggravates due to issues such as labelling and neighbourhood effect whereby people are not given housing, jobs, etc because they belong to a particular area or community. This problem is commonly faced by dalits and

minorities such as Muslims as was visible during incidents in Mumbai and other places. This

Besides social condition, poverty is a political condition created by narrow electoral gains and self interests. The benefits of schemes and policies are not allowed to be percolated to the lowermost strata of society due to vested interests. This is insured by providing mis-governance, and ~~reser~~

This is done as the educated and aware people will fight for their rights which will question the continuity of certain political leaders in power.

These phenomena can be depicted as -



Further, as an environmental condition, poverty affects the biomass economies which are directly related to land, forests and water. The deforestation, land grab, pollution, etc affects poor the most as they are most vulnerable to natural disasters.

The sea level rise and climate change will affect millions living near the sea shore. The affluent and wealthy will be

able to cope with the challenge. However, the poor will not be left with any place to go. ~~Thus~~ They will be rendered as climate refugees for ~~so~~ problems which are not even created by them.

Thus, recognising the fact the poverty is not just an economic problem: ~~so~~ but is more complex in nature, it is imperative that a multipronged approach be adopted for tackling the same. Focus on health, education and skills is essential to make them more productive and increase their earning potential. Affordable housing, with power, water and sanitation

is essential to prevent them pushing back into poverty and also address social discrimination.

Following a rights based approach, better targeting of schemes so that they reach the intended beneficiaries is equally important. Further, developing ~~set~~ resilience to natural disasters and climate change through a participatory approach can not only make them stakeholders in solution but also ensure that solution is sustainable.

Thus, changing the perspective from viewing poverty just as an economic condition to a more ~~more~~ holistic and deep rooted problem can help in eradicating it completely.

GS SCORE

Section - B

Indian Democracy at Crossroads: Need for Good Governance

Sixty eight years after independence, Indian democracy stands at a crucial juncture in history: ~~where~~ on one hand growing political activism aided by media, especially social media, is leading to large scale political mobilisation as witnessed in civil movements, while on the other, Indian democracy is entering a unique demographic window. Demographic dividend or liability can make or break India.

→ For success to happen, good governance would prove to be a cornerstone as only an accountable, transparent, responsive and stable political system can provide faster inclusive and sustainable development.

Thirty years after 1984, India for the first time witnessed a single party majority

government. This tells tons about the crossroad at which Indian democracy is. One, this was the highest voter turnout ever witnessed not only in India but anywhere in the world where more than 55 crore people casted their votes.

Then, the role which social media is playing ~~is~~ ~~was~~ is unprecedented. India now has almost 350 million people connected with internet. This is more than the population of 3rd most populous country, the United States. Not only ~~the~~ all major political leaders have their accounts on facebook, Twitter, etc but also they are quite active on it.

Social media has already started playing an important role in all major elections as witnessed during lok Sabha elections, Maharashtra ~~etc~~ assembly elections and now Bihar elections.

Social media is also playing other role which is of mass mobilisation. The recent Patidar ~~also~~ agitation saw large number of youths participating ~~and~~ using social media platform to communicate with each other and keep themselves updated. This had made the organisation of protests and sit-ins much easier. Large number of popular movements are increasingly becoming visible and involving huge participation.

~~But~~ while on one hand, it is making the democracy more participative, on the other it is in some way or the other leading to overactivism. It has the potential of undermining democratic institutions such as Parliament as ~~is~~ witnessed during the India Against Corruption movement a couple of years back.

Three, more than 65% of India's population is below 35 years of age, making it one of the youngest nations of the world. While the median age of India is just 24 years and it is expected to increase to 29 years by 2020, those of China and US would rise to 37 years.

This positions India at a unique position where it can use this demographic dividend which is expected to last till 2040-45. While on one hand, India can provide manpower to the world and use this labourforce to propel itself out of poverty, on the other, this very same demographic dividend can turn into demographic liability if not properly channelised.

Perhaps the huge political voter turnout during the elections in 2014 and the winning of single party is a reflection

of the expectations of people. It may also be a consequence of the governance void which has been created over the years.

Although, the country has made large scale progress since independence but in terms of economic growth and human development, but now with increasing awareness, vibrant media, social media, their expectations have leapfrogged tremendously.

This makes good governance imperative to achieve the dream of becoming a developed nation. Good governance is necessary to make our democratic institutions accountable, transparent and responsive. It is necessary to remove the delay which has crept in. The common man in order to get even a single work done in any government office has to

move back and forth like a shuttle.

The responses have are generally delayed as is visible in large pendency of cases in the judiciary or the pendency with the Chief Information Commissions of state & Centre.

Further, the rent seeking behaviour and increasing allegations of corruption are affecting not only the business environment but also the common man.

The slow growth of manufacturing, poor investment climate in the country as visible in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Report, so on tell a common story of poor governance.

This has seriously affected the job creation in the country which is evident from the years of jobless growth post globalisation, lack of opportunities not only causes ^{high} ^{grad} ^{1/2}

backward areas to a few cities
as Delhi, Bangalore, etc but also
increase inequality.

Further, it can give rise to unrest
and divert the youth towards anti-social
activities such as ~~et~~ Nationalism, Terrorism,
etc. Already a few cases of youth from
India joining deadly terrorist organisation
such as IS (Islamic state) are being
heard now & then. This ~~not only~~
has the potential to disturb peace
and tranquility in the country. Moreover,
the government will have to divert greater
resources towards security ~~and~~ leaving
little for development. This, ^{it} creates a
~~vicious~~ downward spiral which can
take the country to the path of failed
states such as Afghanistan, Sudan, etc.

The reduced social spending & their
inadequate targeting affects the poor &

the vulnerable the most.

Hence, all this calls for the good governance by ~~providing~~ reforming the institutions. Greater devolution of funds & power to ~~local~~ local government, making citizens a stakeholder in development process by institutionalising mechanisms such as social accountability, etc can be a good starting point.

Repealing ~~con~~ outdated laws, making procedures simple and changing the nature of state from regulation to facilitation can further augment good governance.

Good governance is ~~the~~ not just the need of the hour but is essential for making the Indian Democracy achieve the goals enshrined in the Constitution and making India a developed and welfare state.