

## GS COMPREHENSIVE TEST (PAPER – 2)

1. “To develop scientific temper is a duty of every citizen of India.” What do you understand by scientific temper? What is its significance? Do you agree that it is on a decline in India? – Discuss.

(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks, 200 words)

**Answer:**

Scientific temper is a way of thinking and acting which uses a method, including observing physical reality, questioning, testing, hypothesizing, analysing and communicating – using logic. Jawaharlal Nehru was one of the first persons to use and advocate this term, in Discovery of India. According to him, “...it is necessary, not merely for the application of science but for life itself and the solution of its many problems”. Discussion, argument and analysis are its vital parts.

2010 – 20 is the “Decade of Innovation” with stress to synergize science, technology and innovation. Government has established the National Innovation Council to find new mechanisms and models to address the pressing challenges of energy, environment, food, nutrition, water, sanitation, habitat, affordable health care, skill building and unemployment. Inclusive growth implies access, availability and affordability of solutions to maximum people. Fostering scientific temper is fundamental to all such endeavours.

Furthermore, scientific temper promotes tolerance among people for conflicting ideas and thoughts. This results in constructive debates on critical issues of concern, leading to progressive ideas and general advancement of society in thought and action.

Recent examples of promotion of religious/mythological ideas along with science demonstrate the lack of scientific temper and its decline. Moreover controversial appointments have been made to certain offices, like FTII, ICHR with alleged intention to mould academic discourse in the country.

Public understanding of science is an important dimension of introducing and reaching the benefits of modern science and technology to people. Scientific temper needs to be promoted across all sections of the society systematically, using tools like National Knowledge Network. Public and political understanding of science should be based on evidence and debate with open mind.

(276 words)

2. What do you understand by the principle of “one man one vote and one vote one value”? How the Constitution of India seeks to protect the above principle?

(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks, 200 words)

**Answer:**

Any modern democratic polity is based on the principle of one man one vote and one vote one value. It is in demand of this principle only Nelson Madela organised his political agitation against the apartheid in South Africa. The Constitution under the principles of Universal Suffrage given under Article 325 and Adult Suffrage given under Article 326 endorses the principle of one man one vote. Part III of the Constitution guaranteeing political rights to individuals flows from the philosophy underlying this principle. Further the

Constitution providing for periodic delimitation of territorial constituencies of the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies ensures that the constituencies are properly represented in the legislatures thereby ensuring 'one vote one value' principle for all the voters.

This principle helps to ensure that all citizens have equal say in the election of the government and also confers legitimacy on the government that is elected. This also means that the government represents all the voters in the country. This principle can be effectively practiced by a nation only if the citizens are delivered out of want and hunger so that the right to vote is enjoyed by the citizens fully and meaningfully.

**(196 words)**

3. Even though privacy has been held as a fundamental right, the absence of a law specifying safeguards to privacy increases the risk of infringement of this right. Do you think there is a threat to privacy and to what extent can a law mitigate it?

**(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks, 200 words)**

**Answer:**

Though the issue of right to privacy being a fundamental right is unsettled, there is no doubt that privacy is an important right in a modern and liberal democracy. While, several government departments collect data under various legislations, India does not have a law that safeguards privacy.

Under Passport Act and Motor Vehicles Act persons have to give details of their address, date of birth etc. There are no safeguards against access and use of this information by third parties. Similarly, initiatives like UID, NeGP, NATGRID, CCTNS etc. require maintenance of information in electronic format by involving several private players. The draft DNA Profiling Bill is also in the pipeline.

Absence of a law on privacy increases the risk to infringement of the right to privacy. The Group of Experts on Privacy, chaired by Shri A. P. Shah has set out the following principles for the Indian privacy law:

- Technology neutral, i.e. irrespective of storage: digital or physical.
- Protect all types of privacy, such as bodily privacy (DNA and physical); against surveillance (unauthorised interception, audio and video surveillance); and data protection.
- Safeguards applicable to both government and private sector.
- Create office of a 'Privacy Commissioner' at central and regional level.
- Industry to set up Self-Regulating Organisations to develop a baseline legal framework that protects and enforces privacy, to be approved by the Commissioner.
- Entities collecting and processing data would be accountable, to guarantee privacy of data subject.

Such a law will set a new era of right to privacy for citizens of India. Moreover, it may be the right time to amend the Constitution appropriately to declare right to privacy as a fundamental right, along with limitations to this right.

**(286 words)**

4. "Human Rights should weigh above animal rights in a situation where human lives are at risk." – Critically analyse.

(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks, 200 words)

**Answer:**

Essentially human rights and animal rights flow out of respect that any life form should enjoy. All life forms are dependent upon each other within the intricate web of ecology. As it is said that man cannot live by bread alone, he cannot also live by himself. Further by being the highest form of intellectual life on this planet, man has his/her responsibility to protect all forms of life and prevent wanton killing of any form of life.

However, the question is that in a given situation where human lives are at risk should human rights be allowed to take precedence over animal rights?

Human life is well protected constitutionally under Article 21 which guarantees right to life. The Constitution also ensures quality of life under Part III. However under law, animals do not enjoy right to life. Domesticated animals enjoy right against cruelty under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, but not right to life. They can be killed for food as well. Similarly Wildlife Protection Act seeks to conserve them without recognising their right to life. But all these laws are made by man without any role played by animals in it. By his superior knowledge and power over all life forms man cannot arrogate to himself the right to sit in judgement over other life forms. Any decision taken by him in a given situation like that should be guided by ethical and moral principles.

(239 words)

5. No political party has ever obtained half of the votes cast in any of the 16 Lok Sabha elections held so far in India and yet half of these Lok Sabhas have seen single party majority governments. Do you think that the first past the post election system in India should be replaced by proportional representation system?

(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks, 200 words)

**Answer:**

Advantages of Proportional Representation system:

1. Truly represents the voice of people.
2. Will reduce the importance of smaller parties, which often hold the government to ransom and cause political instability for narrow goals.
3. Will stop the exaggeration of regional differences, by allowing all the parties with significant levels of support to gain seats across the country.
4. Will stop the inflated seat count of the Blocs controlled by smaller parties like AIADMK, DMK, SP, BSP, JDU etc. who generally receive less than 10% of the total votes polled, but a much greater and disproportionate seats.
5. Will bring the nation closer to complete integration of India, putting end to extreme regionalism, divisive caste and communal politics.
6. Better representation to disadvantaged sections, like minorities and women.

Disadvantages of PR system:

1. Political instability. None of the governments formed at centre so far in India would have been single party majority governments.
2. No link between MPs and geographical constituencies, diluting the accountability of MPs towards the electorate.
3. May give more fuel to caste and religion based politics.
4. Will not accommodate concerns/interests of the miniscule/smaller castes and religions.
5. Geographically and culturally distinct smaller areas like North East, Goa, UK etc may not get any representation in Parliament due to smaller number of votes.
6. Can lead to a majoritarian rule with disregard for regional concerns.

[Candidate may support their arguments according to their stand]

As both FPTP and the PR systems have merits and demerits, experience from other countries suggests, as has also been noted by the Law Commission of India, that India would require a hybrid pattern. A mixed-member proportional representation system, similar to the election of Bundestag in Germany could be considered.

**(288 words)**

Further info:

*In the 2014 Lok Sabha election results:*

1. *Vote share of largest party, BJP, was 31%, but seat share of 52%.*
  2. *Vote share of 2<sup>nd</sup> largest party, INC, was 19.3%, but seat share was 8% while in 2009 election, Vote share of 2<sup>nd</sup> largest party, BJP, was 18.8% but seat share was 21.7%.*
  3. *Vote share of 3<sup>rd</sup> largest party, BSP, was 4.1%, but seat share of 0%.*
  4. *Vote share of 6<sup>th</sup> largest party, AIADMK, was 3.3%, but seat share of 7%.*
6. “Even after twenty years of the enactment of the 73<sup>rd</sup> and the 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendments, local self governments are neither local nor self-governing.” Do you agree? What are the key reasons for such a state of affairs? What suggestions would you put forward to improve the situation?

**(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks, 200 words)**

**Answer:**

Integrating institutional reforms in local governance with economic reforms was Gandhiji's far-sighted vision of 'Poorna Swaraj'. Economic reforms and local government empowerment were the two great initiatives launched in the 1990s. While economic reforms have taken roots and have yielded dividends, local government empowerment, as envisaged, has not taken place.

The key reason behind such a situation is lack of political will and initiative to appropriately and legally devolve functions, functionaries and funds to the local bodies. The local bodies continue to function at the will of the state governments. Lacklustre functioning of Gram Sabhas, inadequate tax base for local bodies, lack of autonomy for planning, implementation

and evaluation of projects at the local level exacerbate the situation. Ever increasing demand on the resources of the urban areas due to expansion of urbanization in India has further added to the woes of ULBs.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ARC has given the following recommendations to realize the objectives of democratic decentralization in India:

1. Article 243G and Article 243W be amended to make it mandatory for States to vest the local bodies with powers and authority
2. Union may invoke Article 252 to legislate a model Panchayati Raj Act for the States. With political and public pressure, States may adopt.
3. Principle of subsidiarity be adopted.
4. Legislative Council be constituted in each State to consist of members elected by local governments.
5. State governments must undertake capacity building efforts for local bodies.
6. The MPC/DPC be constituted by all States and strengthened for decentralized planning.
7. Local Body Ombudsman be created (for elected and appointed functionaries).
8. Expand the tax domain of local bodies with certain/all taxes being mandatory.

**(277 words)**

7. Discuss the key recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) which seek to strengthen federalism in India.

**(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks, 200 words)**

**Answer:**

The Constitution of India envisages cooperative federalism as the bedrock of financial governance in the Country. Union and States pool their resources together for achieving common national goals.

Making a compelling case for cooperative federalism, FFC has suggested:

1. Necessary institutional changes to minimize discretion and improve the design of fiscal transfers from Centre to States, for the transfers made outside FFC recommendations.
2. The new institutional arrangement should
  - a. identify sectors in the States eligible for grants,
  - b. indicate criteria for inter-state distribution,
  - c. help design schemes with flexibility in implementation, and
  - d. identify and provide area specific grants
3. Role of Inter-State Council should be expanded to include the above.
4. Some of the current CSS (Centrally Sponsored Schemes) relate to subjects that can be best handled entirely by States. Hence, they should be in the fiscal space of States alone.

5. Expenditure on the CSS that needs to be transferred to the States has been considered for the higher devolution of 42% to the States.
6. A new criteria of forest cover has been introduced for deciding the horizontal distribution of finances. This incentivizes States to increase and maintain the forest cover, thereby making them stakeholders in environmental protection alongside the Centre.
7. Abolition of the distinction between conditional and unconditional transfers.

The Government is restructuring the CSS with better targeting. With strengthened autonomy and participation of the States, the CSS would be need based, i.e. doing away with the one-size-fits all approach. This is likely to strengthen Centre-State relations and rationalize the funding.

In the envisaged set up of the new government, NITI must provide required guidance and monitoring in this regard to achieve the idea of “Team India” achieving national goals.

**(284 words)**

8. How far do you think that introduction of castration as additional form of punishment for child sex abusers is preferable to handle the problem?

**(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks, 200 words)**

**Answer:**

A bench of the Madras High Court recently remarked that child sex abusers should be subjected to castration as a form of punishment. Countries like South Korea prescribe under law castration as a form of punishment – either chemical or surgical castration – in extreme cases of repeat offenders. Chemical castration is temporary and reversible whereas surgical castration is permanent and irreversible.

Though repeat child sex offenders deserve no leniency under law, a civilised legal system like that of India cannot appear to be inhuman while imposing punishment on the guilty who have committed heinous crimes. The Supreme Court has held that the right to life under Article 21 includes right against cruel punishment. Any punishment that leads to mutilation of body parts or debilitation in effect can be regarded as a cruel form of punishment. Moreover if the guilty is married, castration as a punishment will also amount to punishing his spouse who is innocent. Further the higher the severity of punishment, the lower the rate of conviction as courts become circumspect and the benefit of such doubts will invariably go in favour of the accused. Our legal system cannot travel back to medieval time by taking the colour of retribution.

**(200 words)**

9. “Dr. Ambedkar’s objection to the **concurrence of Chief Justice in India** in the appointment of Judges was legally allayed by the Second and Third Judges Cases.” Explain the statement in the light of the Judgment of the Apex Court in the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association Vs. Union of India, 2015 (Fourth Judges case). Also explain why the Supreme Court did not consider it as necessary to review the Second and Third Judges decisions.

**(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks, 200 words)**

**Answer:**

Dr. Ambedker's objection was premised on the potential frailty in individual decision making, howsoever wise the person may be. As President acts on the advice of Council of Ministers, it was thought that "consultation" with Chief Justice of India (CJI) is better than the President being required to concur with the opinion of Chief Justice of India. But, in the light of the historical experience and the necessity to insulate Judicial appointments from politics, the Second and Third Judges Judgments provided that President shall concur with the opinion of the CJI but made it mandatory for CJI to express a collective opinion, not an individual one.

The following are the reasons why the Hon'ble Supreme Court (SC) decided against revisiting Second and Third Judges Cases:

1. As per the legal position declared by the SC, it is not open to Union and State Governments, to require the SC to examine the correctness of the judgments rendered in the Second and Third Judges cases. Such a course could only be adopted, if it is primarily established beyond all reasonable doubt, that the previous judgments were erroneous.
2. During the hearing of Third Judges case, the Union had accepted the Judgment rendered in Second Judges. Hence a revisit cannot be sought now.

**(210 words)**

- 10.** "2015 Syrian Peace Talks in Vienna is a path-breaking attempt aimed at reconciliation." – Analyse. With reference to the outcome of the conference, examine how the Syrian Peace Process took an unprecedented course correction?

**(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks, 200 words)**

**Answer:**

Vienna Conference is a path-breaking attempt at reconciliation for following reasons:

1. Unlike Geneva I & II of 2013 and 2014, Iran was brought to table with its *bête noire* Saudi, which implied a consensus that sectarianism be reconciled.
2. This time, containing Islamic State emerged as the foremost challenge which necessitated reconciliation between government and rebels.
3. Unlike earlier, Mr. Assad was not invited, which was meant to enable participants to be at peace with government so that they can think of creating a collective front against ISIS pending political transition.
4. No Syrian player was invited which was a tacit acknowledgement that Syrian Crisis is the result of outside intervention, and it revealed a resolution to end the fight.

**Nine Point Communiqué** demonstrated a course correction in the wake of IS threat:

1. No condemnation of Mr. Assad, rather the first 4 points called for protecting Syria's unity and integrity.
2. The plan declared that it is imperative to defeat ISIS and other terrorist groups. This reference came prior to mentioning a non-sectarian political process to resolve the governance crisis.

3. Ceasefire is not the immediate goal, rather defeating ISIS has now assumed priority, though reconciliation under the aegis of UN is called for.

**(206 words)**

11. "Despite the rhetoric, there is no change in India's Palestinian policy." Examine the statement in the light of recent developments.

**(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks, 200 words)**

**Answer:**

The Modi government's response to 'Protective Edge' came under criticism from the combined opposition, which demanded a resolution by Parliament 'condemning' the Israeli action. In this regard, it is worth noting that Modi had issued a statement on the 'International Day of Solidarity with the Palestine People.' Modi's meeting with Abbas in New York puts to rest doubts about any imminent changes in India's policy of voting in favour of Palestinian-related resolutions at the UN. Further, the Modi government did not desist from sponsoring the resolution – 'Right of the Palestinian People to Self-Determination' – which India had been sponsoring since 1998, albeit with some breaks in between. India, however, abstained at the UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) on July 1, 2015 on a resolution welcoming the report of the Commission of Inquiry established a year ago to investigate violation of international humanitarian and human rights law in the 'Occupied Territories' during 'Protective Edge'. The resolution, among other requirements, urged Israel and its antagonists to cooperate with the International Criminal Court in its 'preliminary examination' of the issue. India's stance then was welcomed by some Israeli analysts who termed it as a 'major change' in its policy position. It is pertinent to note here that the Modi government had voted in favour of the July 23, 2014 resolution which established the Commission of Inquiry. Others, however, rightly contended that the abstention related to a conflict involving Hamas (designated as a 'terrorist organisation' by the US, EU, Egypt, among others) and pointed out that India still voted against Israel when it came to resolutions at the UNGA.

**(264 words)**

12. "Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace (IOZOP) only has theoretical value and its practice can be detrimental to India's interests." – Critically evaluate.

**(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks 200 words)**

**Answer:**

- (1) The Indian Navy claims to be a net-security provider in the region but it faces a lack of capacity in the region. It is given assistance by other big naval powers. Lack of proper infrastructure & finances has weakened India's stance.
- (2) A danger from an Indian standpoint is lack of US interest in the Indian Ocean Region due to shale revolution. The US is retreating from the Middle East as the flow of energy from the Persian Gulf has reduced. This implies that American withdrawal from the region would increase the presence of other states to fill in the vacuum created. The UK would revive its maritime presence in Bahrain and further militarise IOR.
- (3) If India declared IOZOP, Pakistan would propose for a denuclearized Indian Ocean as Pakistan does not have strategic ballistic missile capable submarine that can counter



India's Naval Power. Hence India would have to first denuclearize on moral and political grounds to prove its interest in IOZOP.

- (4) India's concern about China posing a threat in IOR is not fully convincing as Beijing's proposal for a maritime silk road is supported by Maldives and Sri Lanka. Other states of IOR would not support India on the ZOP concept.

Hence, if IOZOP is declared India will stand to lose because its proposal will be seen as a 'backdoor' manoeuvre to limit the Chinese presence and its failure to fulfil the responsibility of leadership in the IOR.

**(241 words)**

- 13.** "India's long cherished dream of entering the APEC is fraught with formidable challenges." – Comment.

**(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks, 200 words)**

**Answer:**

Though India's economic resilience in the context of Chinese slowdown is well-acknowledged in Asia-Pacific, entry into APEC is a formidable challenge due to the geographical imperative that India is not a Pacific Ocean country, a logic so central to its creation in 1989. Smaller APEC members fear that India's admission will lead to a shift of the epicentre of APEC from the Pacific to the Indian Ocean.

Similarly APEC takes decision consensually, and unless all its members are supportive of India's entry the issue will be kept at abeyance. Some members do not appreciate India's WTO activism.

Further there is a perception that India was not sufficiently supportive of a regional economic integration agenda, which led to the rejection of India in 1998 while APEC admitted Peru, Russia and Vietnam.

Equally pertinent is the criticism that India's laws are not yet synchronized with APEC rules. India still has a long way to go to simplify trade procedures and rules for doing business.

In spite of all, the challenges are worth overcoming as India may find it difficult to achieve Prime Minister's goal to create 100 million manufacturing jobs by 2022, if it finds itself outside of the Asia-Pacific trade picture.

**(200 words)**

- 14.** "India-Australia relationship firmly reiterates Indian strategic imperatives." – Examine.

**(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks, 200 words)**

**Answer:**

India and Australia's overlapping interests and mutual concern about an assertive China will provide a sufficient unifying force to form the basis of a stronger strategic partnership. China's emergence as a global actor could challenge the U.S.-dominated global and regional order in which Australia has functioned since independence. India and Australia must play a more active role in institutions helping to build a new regional order. Mere

presence in existing security institutions differs from active participation and cooperation. Despite the compelling reasons for developing a stronger strategic relationship between India and Australia, a deep ambivalence persists on both sides. The vast majority of Australian security analysts support closer engagement with India, but they doubt India's strategic capabilities and do not think New Delhi should play a large role in any eventual concert of powers in the Asia-Pacific region. While difficulties persist between Canberra and New Delhi, the two have shared interests regarding regional stability. They could and should raise their level of maritime cooperation, especially in Southeast Asia, where their interests overlap. Close alignment with the U.S. and its allies in the Pacific is a provocative move and one likely to disturb the regional maritime equilibrium. In the search for alternate ideas, however, a suggestion to create Indo-Pacific "middle power coalitions" – an informal arrangement where the powers in the middle would make it a priority to strengthen and help one another, working in self-selecting groups, or "minilateral" arrangements that do not include Beijing or Washington, seems interesting. This sort of arrangement could indeed achieve a favourable end-state without India having to overtly align with the U.S. A.

**(267 words)**

- 15.** Explain why India steadfastly insists on concluding Totalisation Agreement with United States? Also explain why it can be said that U.S.A. has become appreciative of Indian endeavour in the domain of intellectual property rights protection, though concerns remain.

**(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks, 200 words)**

**Answer:**

There are 3 lakh Indians working in US on short term contracts (eg. H-1B visa) and they pay over \$ 1 billion as social security contributions annually. However, for availing benefits of the social security net they are required to contribute for 10 years. As Visa is meant for a usual period of 3 years, the contributions made by these Indian nationals are of no benefit to them. By Totalisation Agreement, it can be made possible either to exempt the short term professionals from the contribution or the amount could be repatriated to India after contract termination.

#### **US' appreciation of Indian endeavour in IPR**

The 2015 Special 301 Report prepared by US Trade Representative indicates appreciation of Indian endeavours. Though India remains on Priority Watch List, It notes that India took steps to examine key issues.

Report states that India recently established High Level Working Group on IP, under US-India Trade Policy Forum. India also embarked on a holistic review of IPR regime to produce a National IPR Policy.

The report hopes that initiatives translate into action. However, the report also continues to note the alleged fragilities of the IPR architecture that result in copyright violations, online piracy etc.

**(200 words)**

- 16.** Do you think the new Juvenile Law Bill in India is a departure from its commitment on Child Rights? Substantiate your answer with reasons.

**(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks, 200 words)**

**Answer:**

Amendments to the Juvenile Justice Act allow the trial of children between 16-18 years as adults if they are involved in heinous crimes such as murder and rape. It involves the constitution of Juvenile Justice Board to assess whether the crime has been committed as a child or an adult and this assessment guides the trial process.

In this context, the following points need to be considered

- 1) The adolescent's crime behaviour majorly flows from their risk assessment. They underestimate the risk and are susceptible to negative influences and environmental influences. It predisposes them to poor decision making. Here, Children's rights consider the vulnerable character of the child and the necessity to protect them. It means to grant a particular assistance to them, and to give a protection necessary to their age and to their degree of maturity.
- 2) On the empirical side, there is ample evidence that punitive laws do not improve public safety or deter juvenile crime. So, better we shall deal with the causes of Juvenile crime like poverty, pornography, broken families, failure of child protection system etc. The Judicial waiver system did not provide for a positive outcome in USA and UK in terms of juvenile crime rate, public safety. Improving the conditions of schooling and providing quality education, creating an identity are essential parts of the child rights.
- 3) The law is also against the UN convention on the rights of the child which treats everyone as a child, if he/she is less than 18 years. Along with this, child rights emphasize on criminal laws appropriate for the age and development of the child. The children thus have the right to live and to develop suitably physically and intellectually.

Finally, the objective of punishment is reformation and not retribution. It applies much stronger in the cases related to Juvenile Justice.

**(305 words)**

- 17.** "Social progress index is considered to be a better reflection of inclusive growth." Why India is placed at the bottom of the Index? Do you think good governance can change this situation?

**(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks, 200 words)**

**Answer:**

Social progress index has greater inclusive criteria to map the various degrees of achievements by countries in education, health, skill development, personal safety etc. The index is broadly divided into basic human needs, foundation of wellbeing and opportunities. India is placed at 101 out of 133 countries with a score of 53.06.

Basic Human needs in turn include Nutrition and medical care, water & sanitation, shelter, personal safety. On this front, high levels of undernourishment, child mortality rate, lack of access to safe drinking water are the major challenges. Increased citizen participation, decentralization can improve the public health service delivery. Implementation of NFSA by integrating it with Aadhar is a right step in this direction.

Foundations of wellbeing include access to basic knowledge, information and communication, health and wellness, ecosystem sustainability. Here, ICT tools can lay the

foundations for good governance. ICT technologies can help in effective implementation of RTI, citizen charters, monitoring of programs. E Pragati is one such an example.

Opportunity involves personal rights, personal freedom and choice, tolerance and inclusion, access to advanced education. Here, most of these are political choices and governance can only play an instrumental role. At last it shall be remembered that, good governance can be a guide and reforms centered round it can be successful, if they get deeply enrooted in to the values of Indian society.

**(226 words)**

**18.** "Hidden hunger is the major challenge for India." Discuss the statement in the light of recent Global Hunger Index. Add a note on India's effort to achieve food security.

**(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks, 200 words)**

**Answer:**

Global hunger index and its rankings reflect the status of food security in a particular country. It is based on four factors - stunting, wasting, under nourishment and child mortality. GHI – 2015 specifically referred to the growing hidden hunger in India. That is, micro nutrient deficiencies such as anemia, goiter, night blindness etc.

Nutritional transition in India where food habits are moving from minimally processed food to highly processed, calorific, micro nutrient poor foods can be cited as a reason. Excessive stress on high yielding staple crops such as rice and wheat has also worsened the stress on micro nutrient rich food. Food inflation, lack of sufficient information, education on balanced nutrition can be cited as other reasons.

In contrast to the above, report took a positive opinion on India's effort to raise its food security. PDS system, NRHM, Midday meal program, ICDS scheme, Antyodaya Anna Yojana all are the steps in ensuring food security. Here the criticism is that Indian planning was centered on carbohydrate security rather than nutritional security as a whole. Added to this, leakages in PDS, improper targeting need to be addressed. In this context, reforms initiated in Chhattisgarh for protein malnutrition, Universal PDS system can provide a direction.

**(204 words)**

**19.** "Executing Green India needs restructuring of forest laws and bureaucracy. Idea of conservation shall replace consumption in development." Discuss the above statement in the light of displacement of tribal people.

**(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks, 200 words)**

**Answer:**

Indian Forest Act 1927 has made the Government the sole owner of the forest property and increased the distance between forest dwellers and government. Wildlife Protection Act, Project Tiger, Project Elephant and other environmental laws continued in the same line. Forest Rights Act changed this situation by identifying land, management rights and rights over the minor forest produce. But, the implementation of law has totally ignored the community rights of tribals over minor forest produce. Growing incidences of left wing extremism in tribal belts reflects the discontent growing over the state.

On the other hand, Forest Department is the only Government department in the country and is custodian of public property for the welfare of the people. It is bestowed with the responsibility of detecting any illegal activity inside the forest on its own, investigate the case and also assist in the prosecution. That is, Forest Department is the only department having a dual role, namely protection and development.

So, forest management in India is a double edged sword with dissatisfaction to both the inhabitants and regulators. In this context, increasing the community participation, resource sharing, proper rehabilitation policy for displaced are the critical needs of the hour. Objectives of green India shall protect the green ecosystem in the country rather than aiming for creation of managed forests through fragmented ecosystems in the country.

**(224 words)**

**20.** "Minister-civil servant relationship needs to be built on trust and confidence. Lack of clarification on responsibilities and politicization of bureaucracy is undermining the foundations of this relationship." Discuss in the light of recent developments.

**(12<sup>1/2</sup> marks, 200 words)**

**Answer:**

Minister civil servant relationship is based on the foundations of Neutrality and Anonymity. The relationship shall be driven by trust, confidence where the civil servant shall act as an able advisor to the political master and political master shall consider the opinion of civil servant with due respect. This professional equilibrium got disturbed in India from days of emergency and sycophancy, unquestioned obedience became the virtues desired from a civil servant. Fear of reprisal made the Bureaucracy tight lipped and politics driven administration became all pervasive. It is one of the major reasons for growing corruption.

At the same time, trust replaced with confrontation and neutrality replaced with commitment. This politicization made bureaucracy lose its integrity. Lack of security of tenure, increased number of transfers, unnatural promotions all are associated with this phenomenon. Along with this, lack of clarity on responsibilities between Centre and state on various critical areas is making bureaucrats the victims of politics of the day. Recently, it is visible in the administration of Delhi.

In this context, the role of central leadership acts as a prime motivator with setting pace, direction of the governance. The Prime minister as Primus inter pares shall set the tone. The risk avoiding behavior, buck passing at the highest level creates the same culture down the hierarchy. This is the major reason for policy paralysis. But, the coalition regimes weakened the authority of Prime Minister, every minister of concerned department became supreme for the same. It led to the slow disintegration of the cabinet form of Government. The growth of multiple Groups of ministers also weakened the centrality of the Prime minister and caused disarray in administration. Political rehabilitation in the name of coalition dharma made the systems much vulnerable for damage.

Loss of professionalism of bureaucracy, investigative agencies such as CBI, ACB need to be corrected by promoting merit based appointments at every level.

Finally, governance is a cooperative enterprise between politics and bureaucracy, Centre and states, past and present. Essentially this spirit shall lay foundation for future.

**(338 words)**