

# CIVIL SERVICES MAIN EXAMINATION 2014

## General Studies

### GS 2

**INSTRUCTIONS for General Studies Paper TWO**

1. Duration 3 hours. Total marks 250.
  2. There are TWENTY (20) questions printed both in HINDI and ENGLISH.
  3. Answer the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 words each. Contents of the answer is more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks.
  4. All the questions are compulsory.
  5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in a medium other than the authorized one.
  6. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.
  7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the answer book must be clearly struck off.
- Indian Constitution Development Five Questions were asked with 12.5 marks each, therefore 12.5 x 5 = 62.5 Marks**

**Question No. 1: Starting from inventing the 'basic structure' doctrine, the judiciary has played a highly proactive role in ensuring that India develops into a thriving democracy. In light of the statement, evaluate the role played by judicial activism in achieving the ideals of democracy.**

**Answer:** In any democratic country, the ideal of welfare state is substantially assisted by the process of law, and in that serve, law becomes a mighty weapon in the armoury of democracy by which socioeconomic revolution is brought about. It is a social-institution, democratically evolved for achieving the object of making social adjustments to meet the challenge, which incessantly flows from unsatisfied legitimate human desires and ambitions. The fact that the content of the rule of law cannot be determined for all times and all circumstances is a matter not to lament but for rejoicing. It would be tragic if the law were so petrified, as to be unable to respond to the unending challenge of evolutionary or revolutionary changes in society. To some extent, the Judiciary is born great, some greatness has been acquired by it on the strength of the performance of some of its illustrious judgements, but some of it has also been thrust on it by the failure of the other two organs of the state to do their duty assigned by the Constitution, properly. Thus, Judicial

Activism (JA) mainly stems from the failure of the other two wings of the state. When democratic institutions are extinct or moribund, Court Activism is the only hope of justice for the citizen.

The judiciary has done them but at the same time, It has strongly been felt that the mere judicial activism is not enough. The judicial reforms in the light of proper consideration of globalization has to be done.

**Source: CST: Contemporary Issues in India; Page 113 and 115; Words 251**

**Question No. 2: Though the federal principle is dominant in our Constitution and that principle is one of its basic features, but it is equally true that federalism under the Indian Constitution leans in favour of a strong Centre, a feature that militates against the concept of strong federalism. Discuss.**

**Answer:** The Indian Constitution has been described as sui generis, neither fitting into the classical mould of a genuine federation nor confirming to the criteria of a unitary system. It is basically federal in intention and quasi-federal in practice. Our constitution makers were deeply influenced by the Gandhi an philosophy of decentralization and devolution of powers and self-government. Nevertheless, a strong Centre is sine qua non for the surest guarantee against the malevolent forces seeking to wreck the unity and integrity of the country.

Therefore, it became imperative to opt for the primacy of the Centre. It has been armed with powers to deal with centrifugal and fissiparous tendencies, threats to the country's unity and sovereignty, and emergencies affecting national security and financial solvency. This explains the provisions qualifying the fundamental rights, the provisions permitting preventive detention, article relating to the imposition of President's rule in the States, declaration of emergency, the power to legislate any subject included in the State List, the power of the Union to issue direction upon the State Government to ensure due compliance with the legislative and administrative action of the Union and to supersede a State Government which refuses to comply with such directions.

**Source: CST: Indian Polity special edition; Page 408; Words 199**

**Question No. 3: The 'Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and its Members'**

● Question No. 1: Starting from inventing the 'basic structure' doctrine, the judiciary has played a highly proactive role in ensuring that India develops into a thriving democracy. In light of the statement, evaluate the role played by judicial activism in achieving the ideals of democracy.

● Question No. 2: Though the federal principle is dominant in our Constitution and that principle is one of its basic features, but it is equally true that federalism under the Indian Constitution leans in favour of a strong Centre, a feature that militates against the concept of strong federalism. Discuss.

● Question No. 3: The 'Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and its Members' as envisaged in Article 105 of the Constitution leave room for a large number of un-codified and un-enumerated privileges to continue. Assess the reasons for the absence of legal codification of the 'parliamentary privileges'. How can this problem be addressed?

● Question No. 4: Instances of President's delay in commuting death sentences has come under public debate as denial of justice. Should there be a time limit specified for the President to accept/reject such petitions? Analyse.

● Question No. 5: What do you understand by the concept "freedom of speech and expression"? Does it cover hate speech also? Why do the films in India stand on a slightly different plane from other forms of expression? Discuss.

as envisaged in Article 105 of the Constitution leave room for a large number of un-codified and un-enumerated privileges to continue. Assess the reasons for the absence of legal codification of the 'parliamentary privileges'. How can this problem be addressed?  
**Answer:** Parliamentary privilege is the sum of the peculiar rights enjoyed by each House collectively as a constituent part of Parliament and by members of each House individually, without which they could not discharge their functions, efficiently and effectively, and which exceed those possessed by other bodies or individuals.

**Source: CST: Indian Polity special edition; Page 285; Words 48**

Article 105(3) of the Constitution, inter alia, leaves powers, privileges and immunities of each House of Parliament and of the members and committees thereof, to be defined by Parliament by law. No comprehensive law has so far been enacted by Parliament. In this context the question of undertaking legislation on the subject has been considered from time to time at various Conferences of Presiding Officers. The plea for codification of privileges has also been made by the Press Commission. Various arguments have been advanced in favour of or against codification. Recently, the Committee of Privileges of the Lok Sabha undertook a study of various opinions on the subject. The Committee was "inclined to hold that preponderance of opinion is against codification of parliamentary privileges" and recommended that it was not advisable to do so.

It may be observed that Article 105(3) stipulates that Parliament may from time to time decline its privileges by law and it has been urged particularly by the Press that there should be codification of the law of privilege so as to make the position clear and free from ambiguity.

**Source: CST: Indian Polity special edition; Page 290; Words 184**

**Question No. 4: Instances of President's delay in commuting death sentences has come under public debate as denial of justice. Should there be a time limit specified for the President to accept/reject such petitions? Analyse.**

**Answer:** The final observation of court was: (a) the President's powers in deciding clemency petitions are limited; (b) the recommendation of the Home ministry can be returned for reconsideration - but only once, after which the President is constitutionally obliged to follow the ministry's lead; (c) however, there is no set time limit for providing the Presidential signature, leaving room for endless delays.

**Source: CST March 2014; Page 105; Words 62**

The bench said the "exercise of Executive clemency is a matter of discretion and yet subject to certain standards. It is not a matter of privilege. It is a matter of performance of official duty. It is vested in the President or the Governor, as the case may be, not for the benefit of the convict only but for the welfare of the people who may insist on the performance of the duty."

**Source: CST March 2014; Page 106; Words 73**

The court said that the government cannot keep mercy pleas pending for years.

The court said that if there is a procedural lapse in deciding on the mercy plea of a death row convict then it can be a ground for commuting death sentence to life. "Although, no time frame can be set for the President for disposal of the mercy petition but we can certainly request the concerned Ministry to follow its own rules rigorously which can reduce, to a large extent, the delay caused," the bench further said. It simply that the inordinate delay should be avoided.

**Source: CST March 2014; Page 105; Words 86**

**Question No. 5: What do you understand by the concept "freedom of speech and expression"? Does it cover hate speech also? Why do the films in India stand on a slightly different plane from other forms of expression? Discuss.**

**Answer:** It has four special purposes: (a) It helps an individual, to attain self-fulfillment; (b) It assists in the discovery of truth; (c) It strengthens the capacity of the individual in participating in decision-making; and (d) it provides a mechanism by which it would be possible to establish a reasonable balance between stability and social change.

**Source: CST: Indian Polity special edition; Page 157-158; Words 56**

Definitely, the constitution has provided such provision to control the hate speech in the form of reasonable restrictions. Right to Freedom is not absolute. Man as a rational being desires to do many things, but in a civil society desires have to be controlled, regulated and reconciled with the exercise of similar desires by other individuals. Therefore, the constitution has imposed by law certain reasonable restrictions as may be necessary in the larger interest of the community. These restrictions on these freedoms are provided in clause 2 to 6 of Article 19 of the Constitution.

**Source: CST: Indian Polity special edition; Page 155; Words 95**

The film producers know that only through their imaginary characters, they can legitimize hate speech against the certain type of people.

● Question No. 6: The size of the cabinet should be as big as governmental work justifies and as big as the Prime Minister can manage as a team. How far the efficacy of a government then is inversely related to the size of the cabinet? Discuss.

● Question No. 7: Has the Cadre based Civil Services Organisation been the cause of slow change in India? Critically examine.

● Question No. 8: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India can be most effective when its tasks are adequately supported by other mechanisms that ensure the accountability of a government. In light of the above observation assess the role of NHRC as an effective complement to the judiciary and other institutions in promoting and protecting human rights standards.

In this way the provisions of reasonable restrictions could be avoided. The hate speech is basically a tool to articulate the bundle of accumulated grievances by a group of aggrieved people against those groups, who for them, are mainly responsible for their plight. In this way, the remonstrance is shown.

**Source: Words 71**

**Issues related to Good Governance and Administration Three Questions were asked with 12.5 marks each, therefore  $12.5 \times 3 = 37.5$  Marks**

**Question No. 6: The size of the cabinet should be as big as governmental work justifies and as big as the Prime Minister can manage as a team. How far the efficacy of a government then is inversely related to the size of the cabinet? Discuss.**

**Answer:** The size of the cabinet has a direct bearing on the functioning of the government. If the size is small, then the ministers are overburdened and if the size is large then it becomes very difficult to coordinate them as some of the functions are overlapping. A simple look at the various ministries with Cabinet ministers at their helm shows that many of them can be merged and the total number could be halved without any dilution in the quality of ministerial supervision. A cabinet size of 14 ministers with the charge of many omnibus ministries would be easier to monitor and they are likely to be more effective. The advantages of having one Cabinet minister each for infrastructure and industries, the entire transportation sector and the energy sector would be immense. There will be better co-ordination among different sectors within those ministries. Monitoring will be better. The efficiency and effectiveness of the team counts with optimum co-ordination among ministries for better governance.

Undoubtedly, a smaller cabinet is a good thing because it will streamline decision-making. A strong PMO with limited size of cabinet may be more accountable towards the assigned functions. The decisions could be taken faster and also the limited number of agencies could ensure better implementation.

**Source: Words 209**

**Question No. 7: Has the Cadre based Civil Services Organisation been the cause of slow change in India? Critically examine.**

**Answer:** Not necessarily. The slow change in India is due to a number of factors. The cadre-based civil services has rather provided opportunity for its official to understand the work culture of the state and department. This system of having organized services has ensured merit-based recruitment, development of a pro-

fessional cadre of civil servants in different functional areas, inculcation of certain public service values and esprit-de-corps which has helped in nation building. This has ensured greater stability but also created moribundity and stereo-type administrative system devoid of innovations and challenges. At the same time, having career-based civil services coupled with excessive job security has led to a sense of complacency and lack of accountability amongst civil servants. Under these conditions, the important posts are monopolised by the few cadre based officials and this has definitely hampered the rationing functioning of the departments. The juniors know that these seniors could come back to the same department so that they cannot afford to raise their voices against the corruption of the senior officials.

Therefore, there should be a more flexible system of appointment and transfer along with lateral entry into the civil services. It has to be mentioned that greater the options and alternatives, greater the choice and efficiency.

**Source: Words 206**

**Question No. 8: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India can be most effective when its tasks are adequately supported by other mechanisms that ensure the accountability of a government. In light of the above observation assess the role of NHRC as an effective complement to the judiciary and other institutions in promoting and protecting human rights standards.**

**Answer:** The establishment of NHRC has brought about a qualitative change in the observance of Human Rights in the country. It has gone beyond the civil rights to expand its activities in the area of social and economic rights. There is greater awareness to follow Human Rights principles among Police, Army and Security Forces since everything will come to the attention of strong Media and NHRC as well. The Commission attention towards custodial violence has been a focus since its earliest days. The NGO's are also playing a significant role in generating awareness about various issues in society and undertaking development activities for the betterment of deprived sections of society.

Human Rights have not been articulated at a single point of time nor have these been embodied in a single document. They have evolved, and this evolutionary process is still going on. The contemporary conception of human rights is based on human-centric justice, both political and socio-economic.

In India features like parliamentary democracy based on regular competitive elections, free press, civilian controlled military, independent

● Question No. 9: Though 100 percent FDI is already allowed in non-news media like a trade publication and general entertainment channel, the Government is mulling over the proposal for increased FDI in news media for quite some time. What difference would an increase in FDI make? Critically evaluate the pros and cons.

● Question No. 10: The setting up of a Rail Tariff Authority to regulate fares will subject the cash strapped Indian Railways to demand subsidy for obligation to operate non-profitable routes and services. Taking into account the experience in the power sector, discuss if the proposed reform is expected to benefit the consumers, the Indian Railways or the private container operators.

● Question No. 11: The penetration of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in rural areas in promoting participation in development programmes is facing socio-cultural hurdles. Examine.

judiciary, active political parties and interest groups provide supportive environment for human rights. Despite this new dynamism in human rights, the enduring obstacles and dilemmas persist. At present the major threat for humans are terrorism, fundamentalism and global warming for which an active and skill full human rights democracy is needed which not only brings International stability but also brings harmony to mankind as a whole.

**Source:** CST: Indian Polity special edition; Page 472-73; Words 239

**Issues related to the application of economic policies Two Questions were asked with 12.5 marks each, therefore  $12.5 \times 2 = 25$  Marks**

**Question No. 9: Though 100 percent FDI is already allowed in non-news media like a trade publication and general entertainment channel, the Government is mulling over the proposal for increased FDI in news media for quite some time. What difference would an increase in FDI make? Critically evaluate the pros and cons.**

**Answer: Pros**

1. Allowing foreign investment will push media firms to clean up their act. It will make them compete for good writers, reporters, technicians, managers and put in place processes and systems that allow for good journalism to flourish.
2. It would increase the choice greatly if Indian consumers could see the same quality in locally-produced news; strategic foreign investors can help facilitate that.
3. Small and medium newspapers have been suffering from a capital constraint and the FDI option could offer them the required financial muscle.
4. With foreign entry, the range and quality of information available to the reader will become expansive.
5. FDI cap increase is a good opportunity for media to penetrate deeper into the India territories.

**Cons**

1. It will kill diversity, influence voters, cause instability.
2. Many vernacular and regional newspapers in the country are small in size and may suffer due to the development. If FDI cap expansion is approved, they fear that many such small papers would be on the verge of mergers and acquisitions. Further, some may even vanish.
3. The foreign intervention through investment may exploit the sensitive with malafide intention.
4. A band of investors who would try to generate consent for the mission set forth by their countries' corporate and the political class and

would be dangerous for our native culture and the self-sustenance in the economy too.

**Balanced view**

FDI in print should be done in phased manner with proper regulations and safeguards. A balanced and systematic adoption produces better environment of understanding.

**Words: 255**

**Question No. 10: The setting up of a Rail Tariff Authority to regulate fares will subject the cash strapped Indian Railways to demand subsidy for obligation to operate non-profitable routes and services. Taking into account the experience in the power sector, discuss if the proposed reform is expected to benefit the consumers, the Indian Railways or the private container operators.**

**Answer:** The setting up of such an authority will institutionalise a regulatory mechanism at arm's length for pricing of passenger and freight services. The Rail Tariff Authority will be vested with the function to develop an integrated, transparent and dynamic pricing mechanism for the passenger and freight segments of the Indian Railways business. The need for setting up such an authority, which is intended to be immune from political interference, has been felt because of rise in cost of running trains and the need to insulate the Railways from hikes in fuel and electricity and eliminating uncertainties in tariff formulation. In other words, after long years of incessant spate of populism in tariff setting and sheer giveaways, we do need independent assessment and the proper fixation of user charges, to speedily modernise and overhaul the railways. Nevertheless, it remains to be a question whether the role of the RTA would merely be of an advisory or a recommendatory nature. This will decide the purposes and objectives of the creation of an authority.

**Source:** CST March 2014; Page 123; Words 171

Unlike, piecemeal power reforms and inefficient State Electricity Boards and multi-level agency, the RTA would definitely ensure benefits. The controlling power of RTA would be better than the Central Electricity Authority.

**Issues related to the welfare and social sector Five Questions were asked with 12.5 marks each, therefore  $12.5 \times 5 = 62.5$  Marks**

**Question No. 11: The penetration of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in rural areas in promoting participation in development programmes is facing socio-cultural hurdles. Examine.**

**Answer:** SHGs have bound to face socio-cultural impediments due to traditional position of women. Since this scheme is directly related to upliftment and empowerment of women, the

● Question No. 12: Do government's schemes for up-lifting vulnerable and backward communities by protecting required social resources for them, lead to their exclusion in establishing businesses in urban economics?

● Question No. 13: An athlete participates in Olympics for personal triumph and nation's glory; victors are showered with cash incentives by various agencies, on their return. Discuss the merit of state sponsored talent hunt and its cultivation as against the rationale of a reward mechanism as encouragement.

rural areas equations and the familial ties are bound to be upset. But despite hurdles, the SHG system has proven to be very relevant and effective in offering women the possibility to gradually break away from exploitation and isolation. One of the primary benefits of participation in a SHG is the opportunity to save regularly, access formal savings institutions, and participate in the management of these savings. SHG are having a good impact on members, by inculcating in them the propensity to judiciously save their hard-earned money.

The SHGs have led to increased financial freedom of women. They have gained access to credit facility easily through SHGs. The financial mobility due to participation in the SHG has led to an improvement in the quality of life. The implementation of SHG has generated self-employment opportunities for the rural poor. The SHGs programmes in rural areas have helped the Swarozgaris in establishing their own microenterprises.

Another significant impact of the SHG movement in the country is the increased involvement of the rural poor in the decision-making process. There has emerged a significant change in mentality of male members of the families towards the rural women. The rural population is now convinced about the concept of SHG and encourages women to participate in the meetings. Women reported that they have savings in their name and it gives them confidence and increased self-respect.

**Source: CST Good Governance; Page 168; Words 255**

**Question No. 12: Do government's schemes for up-lifting vulnerable and backward communities by protecting required social resources for them, lead to their exclusion in establishing businesses in urban economics?**

**Answer:** It is not correlated. There is enormous rural migration to urban places and now it is required that to stop the process of migration through durable rural development schemes like MNREGA. The work undertaken under MNREGA consists of creating durable assets for the village community like water conservation apparatus, irrigation canals, etc. The scheme highlights the need to regenerate our natural resources. Under MNREGA water and soil conservations, plantation and afforestation has been given priority. Works relating to drought proofing and flood protection are aimed to provide resistance to climate shocks and natural disasters. Thus, NREGA can actually be seen moving towards its objective of food and livelihood security and long term sustainable development through ecological

regeneration. MNREGA has also encouraged the transfer of local solutions and best practices through the online Knowledge Network. Thus we can say that MNREGA is a scheme with the goal of taking the graph of progress from a wage employment to sustainable development program.

As has always been the tragedy of well-intentioned welfare programmes in India the MNREGA also suffers from various institutional failures and weaknesses. All the programmes will fall meaningless if it does not reach the people on time. It is the responsibility of the officials and elected representatives to work for the success of the schemes. After going through the design of MNREGA thread bare, one should do well to get satisfied with the design of the programme, the drawback or say it the weakness of the programme thus lies in its implementation part, where the role of our public administration or administrative machinery comes into play.

**Source: CST Contemporary Issues in India; Page 662-663; Words 265**

**Question No. 13: An athlete participates in Olympics for personal triumph and nation's glory; victors are showered with cash incentives by various agencies, on their return. Discuss the merit of state sponsored talent hunt and its cultivation as against the rationale of a reward mechanism as encouragement.**

**Answer:** One can safely suggest that both the initiatives must be maintained concomitantly. Both supplement and complement each other. The state sponsored talent hunt is an ambitious attempt to discover, groom and develop an Indian Olympic level athlete. The talent hunt has following benefits:

1. The downtrodden and disadvantaged people would get an opportunity to become a part of the national sports.
2. A proper grooming of special talent will take place through regular coaching and by providing basic amenities and infrastructural support.
3. More and more people would be motivated to join the scheme because due to lack of initial support, the basic instinct dies and it takes a lot of time and patience in getting rid of such hurdles.
4. These schemes would create basic awareness amongst both the urban and the rural people. The choice of people and the sports would be widened due to the participation of remote areas.
5. This would create a road map for the sports authorities to extend their participation at the international platform.
6. The cash incentive present only a partial perception. It is provided only when the talent is

● Question No. 14: Should the premier institutes like IITs/IIMs be allowed to retain premier status, allowed more academic independence in designing courses and also decide mode/criteria of selection of students. Discuss in light of the growing challenges.

● Question No. 15: Two parallel run schemes of the Government viz. the Adhaar Card and NPR, one as voluntary and the other as compulsory, have led to debates at national levels and also litigations. On merits, discuss whether or not both schemes need run concurrently. Analyse the potential of the schemes to achieve developmental benefits and equitable growth.

● Question No. 16: With respect to the South China sea, maritime territorial disputes and rising tension affirm the need for safeguarding maritime security to ensure freedom of navigation and over flight throughout the region. In this context, discuss the bilateral issues between India and China.

already shown or rather internationally recognised and under these circumstances the cash incentive does a mere formality.

Over all the scheme of talent hunt should be encouraged and people from every section of society should be motivated to do their best in terms of performance.

**Words: 233**

**Question No. 14: Should the premier institutes like IITs/IIMs be allowed to retain premier status, allowed more academic independence in designing courses and also decide mode/criteria of selection of students. Discuss in light of the growing challenges.**

**Answer:** In fact, the opening of the new IITs and IIMs would not automatically attract the faculty and other resources to build the reputation. The new IITs and IIMs will be required to work hard to survive the onslaughts of global competition. Therefore, a complete roadmap, financial inputs and infrastructure would be needed to establish their own reputation as a world class institute. The major issue is the of attracting quality faculty. There is a crisis relating to faculty recruitment and retention in our universities. Even the central universities are facing difficulty with 35-40 per cent of their faculty positions remaining vacant. We need to double the number of faculty from the current 8 lakh to 16 lakh by 2017 so as to fill the current gap and meet the future demand for college education.

**Source: CST October 2014; Page 56, column 2; Words 134**

Considering the global constraints, India looks at improving the gross enrolment ratio (GER) to 30 percent by 2020 and this would require an additional capacity of about 10 million to be created over the next five years. The reform in higher education needs improvement in the existing institutions, investment of more resources, amelioration of their governance structure and creation of research and development infrastructure. The promotion of institutional autonomy, restructuring the system of faculty appointments and promotions, reviewing student admissions criteria, curricular and pedagogical reform, the smart use of technology and boosting private investment (both commercial and philanthropic) in the sector would be strictly required.

**Source: CST October 2014; Page 56, column 3; Words 105**

**Question No. 15: Two parallel run schemes of the Government viz. the Adhaar Card and NPR, one as voluntary and the other as compulsory, have led to debates at national levels and also litigations. On merits, discuss**

**whether or not both schemes need run concurrently. Analyse the potential of the schemes to achieve developmental benefits and equitable growth.**

**Answer:** The National Population Register (NPR) is a comprehensive identity database to be maintained by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India (RGI). As per Section 14A of the Citizenship Act 1955 as amended in 2004, it is compulsory for every citizen of the country to register in the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC). On the other hand Adhaar card is voluntary in nature but has many compulsory uses:

Benefits:

1. The central government plans to soon extend the direct benefit transfer (DBT) programme to the beneficiaries of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act as well as seven higher scholarship schemes.

2. A massive verification drive undertaken by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) under the supervision of the Planning Commission in 300 identified districts, where enrolment is more than 80%, has shown that 10-12% of the beneficiaries are ghost beneficiaries, resulting in huge misappropriation of planned funds of the government to non-eligible and even non-existing beneficiaries.

3. As a first of its kind service, the electronic Know Your Customer (e-KYC) service of the UIDAI is transforming the entire KYC process by making it paperless, instantaneous, secure, economical and non-repudiable.

4. RBI has advised banks to accept the Aadhar letter issued by UIDAI as an officially valid document for opening bank accounts without any limitations applicable to small accounts.

5. The UIDAI has launched its 'Public Data Portal' (data.uidai.gov.in) for the Aadhaar project in line with the National Data Sharing & Accessibility Policy (NSDAP) 2012. The portal enabled the public to access several anonymised datasets generated in the UIDAI ecosystem.

**Words: 272**

**Issues related to the foreign policy and international development Five Questions were asked with 12.5 marks each, therefore  $12.5 \times 5 = 62.5$  Marks**

**Question No. 16: With respect to the South China sea, maritime territorial disputes and rising tension affirm the need for safeguarding maritime security to ensure freedom of navigation and over flight throughout the region. In this context, discuss the bilateral issues between India and China.**

**Answer:** Both India and Vietnam have assert-

● Question No. 17:  
The aim of Information Technology Agreements (ITAs) is to lower all taxes and tariffs on information technology products by signatories to zero. What impact should such agreements have on India's interests?

● Question No. 18:  
Some of the International funding agencies have special terms for economic participation stipulating a substantial component of the aid to be used for sourcing equipment from the leading countries. Discuss on merits of such terms and if, there exists a strong case not to accept such conditions in the Indian context.

ed that the freedom of navigation in the disputed waters of the resource-rich South China Sea should not be "impeded" and called all the parties "concerned" to exercise restraint in this context. The leaders reiterated their desire and determination to work together to maintain peace, stability, growth and prosperity in Asia. They agreed that freedom of navigation in the East Sea/South China Sea should not be impeded and called the parties concerned to exercise restraint, avoid threat or use of force and resolve disputes through peaceful means in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the UNCLOS-1982.

India and Vietnam would work towards the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea on the consensus for ensuring security of sea lanes, besides maritime security, and combating piracy. It can be said that considering Chinese aggressive policy of incursions and forging alliance with India's neighbouring countries through cheque-book diplomacy, Indian policy needs to be proactive and assertive. Today, there is one-to-one diplomacy and not one-to-many. If China wants to develop positive economic relations with India then China can definitely do it but not by saying that it can't do with others like Vietnam. Similarly, India cannot stop Maldives and Sri Lanka from signing the treaty over maritime silk route. In this way, every country has its rights to protect, promote and preserve ties with any nation. In fact, only strong and diversified ties can break the jinx of traditional outmoded territorial disputes.

**Source: CST November 2014; Page 22, column 1; Words 251**

**Question No. 17: The aim of Information Technology Agreements (ITAs) is to lower all taxes and tariffs on information technology products by signatories to zero. What impact should such agreements have on India's interests?**

**Answer:** The first ITA was signed in 1997 and has not been reviewed since despite massive technological innovations and additions in the past 17 years. The ITA guarantees zero-tariff and duty-free trade in hundreds of products. Under the first phase of ITA, almost all prominent electronic items were covered and import duties on them were removed by all member countries so the import costs go down. The Indian government will have to intensify its efforts to promote local manufacturing of electronics to counter the possible fallout from the US-China trade pact that removes import tariffs on a host of new electronic items. The agreement covers 200 new tariff categories covering

\$1 trillion in global sales trade. Some of the goods that will no longer be subject to tariffs include medical equipment, GPS devices, video game consoles, computer software and next-generation semiconductors. While the US still exports many high-technology goods, China is the world's dominant exporter overall of electronics and has much to gain from an elimination of tariffs. In the wake of the pact, which was signed in November 2014, India is facing renewed pressure to sign the extended Information Technology Agreement (ITA).

India substantially believes that the ITA will only be beneficial to the country when domestic manufacturing is robust and huge. This will adversely affect the proposed Make in India policy and the existing industries. Considering the imperatives, India must further develop and streamline its IT industries to make more competitive in the global market.

**Words 246**

**Question No. 18: Some of the International funding agencies have special terms for economic participation stipulating a substantial component of the aid to be used for sourcing equipment from the leading countries. Discuss on merits of such terms and if, there exists a strong case not to accept such conditions in the Indian context.**

**Answer:** It is very natural that these international funding agencies have to deepened upon the developed and bigger economies for their finance and other management. The funding always comes with certain conditionalities in terms of investment, purchase and operations. In what is technically called Article IV consultations, IMF economists visit a member-country to gather information and discuss with government and central bank officials, private investors, labour representatives, members of Parliament and civil society organisations. Besides that it focuses on cross-cutting reforms such as: (a) governance, (b) fiscal management, and continue addressing deficiencies in the region's investment climate, such as (c) weak infrastructure, (d) red tape, (e) corruption etc.

The merit of these instructions and directions are following:

1. It supports for the creation of a more efficient system of governance in long run.
2. The path of reforms suggested by these agencies could be ultimately beneficial for the country itself. It could imbibe a new work culture.
3. The surveillance and monitoring should not be taken as interference rather it could be a training ground for the professionals.

The demerits are:

1. It can widen the trade deficit as the conditionalities can force the country to import from

● Question No. 19: India has recently signed to become founding a New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). How will the role of the two Banks be different? Discuss the significance of these two Banks for India.

● Question No. 20: WTO is an important international institution where decisions taken affect countries in profound manner. What is the mandate of WTO and how binding are their decisions? Critically analyse India's stand on the latest round of talks on Food security.

the big economies.

2. If these funds cannot be utilised properly then, it is very difficult to establish import substitution industries in India.

India has to intensify its speed of reforms and improve infrastructure to boost the industries and other relevant sectors. The creation of NDB has also provided an alternative to India's need. But undoubtedly, it can be said that without proper road map of development and investment, India cannot afford to write-off these funding and funding related conditionalities.

**Words 277**

**Question No. 19: India has recently signed to become founding a New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). How will the role of the two Banks be different? Discuss the significance of these two Banks for India.**

**Answer:** The western dominated economic institutions are not able to restructure their organisation despite demands of the some developed and emerging market economies (EMEs). It has been accused that both IMF and WB have specifically precluded poor countries from using the basic strategies that western countries used to develop their own economies. The NDB, with an initial authorised capital of \$100 billion, will fund infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS nations and developing economies.

1. The creation of the NDB is an immensely significant step by BRICS nations to develop alternative financial institutions that serve their own policy priorities and interests better.

2. The NDB would act as a safety net for countries to tackle short-term liquidity pressures and enhance their financial stability which can thus stave off pressure on the local currency and offer comfort to the markets. Potentially such an access to this short term window can help these economies abandon regressive and conservative measures such as a clamp down on imports and outflows during a volatile phase and liquidity shocks.

3. The leaders have, in a pragmatic manner, tried to give more importance to economic consolidation and expansion rather than discussing on controversial international issues.

4. In no way, the new BRICS development bank is unlikely to replace the IMF and World Bank in the near future and most likely relationship between the two would be complementary in nature rather than a conflicting one. In fact, NDB would make IMF more accountable and one can hope restructuring of IMF and WB very soon.

**Source: CST October 2014; Page 20, Box; Words 255**

**Question No. 20: WTO is an important international institution where decisions taken affect countries in profound manner. What is the mandate of WTO and how binding are their decisions? Critically analyse India's stand on the latest round of talks on Food security.**

**Answer:** WTO is a permanent body. There is no provision of Veto in WTO and decisions would be taken on the basis of majority. The decisions were voluntary in nature in case of GATT whereas they are compulsory and mandatory in the case of WTO and if not adopted sanctions could be imposed. The patent was not internationally applicable and it was only applicable to the product in case of GATT. In case of WTO the patent is applicable internationally and is imposed on both process and product and the "onus to prove" lies with the violator. **Source: CST July 2014; Page 29, Column No. 3; Words 96**

For India, the peace clause would buy time to figure out where the cap should finally fall – 10 per cent of the value of the output, at present, under the Agreement on Agriculture – and which of India's subsidies are trade-distorting. Considering India's need, the new food security law is expected to push up India's subsidy bill, though consumption subsidy cannot be counted as trade-distorting. Nonetheless, in the light of global compulsions and commitments, it is in India's interest to separate production and consumption subsidies and stay within the WTO rules. There is an urgent need to redirect the spending from insensible subsidies to yield-boosting investments that enhance farm incomes, even with higher fertiliser and seed prices. The post-Bali agenda, in the new regime of NDA, should include a binding schedule to move away from production subsidies to a productivity enhancement regime.

**Source: CST July 2014; Page 27, Column No. 1; Words 141**

**Suggestions: CST has managed to answer more than 75 per cent of the questions directly.** It can safely be concluded that the GS Paper 2 has, by and large, become analytical and opinion-based. The opinion-based questions are value-laden and one cannot be sure about the evaluation pattern. In opinion based answers two factors are importance: (a) balancing both the negative and the positive; and (b) eliminating the ideal suggestions which are beyond realm of reality.

An ideal suggestion reminds that the candidate is oblivious of reality and he/she can be easily persuaded by any subordinate or superordinate. An administrator should be fully aware of the ground realities and must be in a position to take feasible decisions.