



Mains Q& A Test(8)- (25/09/2022)

Approach for the Mains Answer Writing

- **Start Your answer briefly introducing the Topic**
- **Discuss the Key points about the Topic with the Context in the Question**
- **Discuss Pro and Cons of the Topic (if applicable)**
- **Quote the Statistics (if there are any)**
- **Draw the Conclusion (Make Sure your answer doesn't support any particular view and make it look balanced)**

1. Examine the factors that led to the balance of payment crisis of the early 90s. How did the political class handle this crisis? Explain. (150 words)

Definition

It can be defined as a **systematic statement of all economic transactions of a country** with the rest of the world during a specific period usually one year.

The following factors can be seen as responsible for the balance of payment crisis in 1991:

1. The first important factor responsible for this growing crisis in BOP was the policy of import liberalisation introduced by the Congress (I) Government headed by Late Rajiv Gandhi resulting in a huge inflow of imports particularly after the announcement of Exim Policy in 1985.
2. The second factor responsible for the crisis was the existing heavy import base of the country. In-spite of attaining an encouraging 18.7 percent annual growth rate of exports during Seventh Plan, which was even higher than the annual growth rate of imports (16.8 per cent), the BOP position deteriorate to a serious point as the country started with larger volume imports.



3. The third factor responsible for this BOP crisis is the higher import intensity in the industrial development resulting from import intensive industrialisation process followed in the country for meeting the requirements of elitist consumption (viz., colour TVs, VCRs, refrigerators, motor cycles, cars) etc.
4. The steep depreciation of rupee with dollar and other currencies during 1987-91 had resulted in a considerable increase- in the value of imports.
5. The worsening of the current account deficit in BOP in 1990-91 and therefore was partly on account of Gulf war and the higher price of petroleum imports and higher volume of petroleum imports continuously.
6. The current account deficit in 1990-91 weakened the ability to finance deficit massively. Political uncertainty at home, copied with rising inflation and widening fiscal deficits, led to a loss of international confidence. This had resulted in drying up of commercial borrowing and an outflow of NRI deposits.

Handling the Crisis

To tackle such a grave crisis, the government's immediate response was to secure an emergency loan from the International Monetary Fund by pledging tons of India's gold reserves as collateral security. Furthermore, the Narsimha Rao government brought wide ranging reforms which were collectively called LPG reforms (Liberalisation-Privatisation-Globalisation) and these formed part of the New Economic Policy (NEP)

The government initiated a variety of policies which fall under three heads viz., liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation. These can be seen as below:

- Liberalisation- Liberalisation was introduced to put an end to restrictions and open up various sectors of the economy. Deregulation of Industrial sector, financial sector reforms, tax reforms, foreign exchange reforms and trade and investment policy reform formed part of this measure.
- Privatisation- It implies shedding of the ownership or management of a government owned enterprise. Privatisation of the public sector enterprises by selling off part of the equity of PSEs to the public is known as disinvestment.



- Globalisation- Globalisation is the outcome of the policies of liberalisation and privatisation. It means an integration of the economy of the country with the world economy.

2. Factors on which Current Account deficit depends and measures to deal with it (150 words)

Current Account Deficit:

- It records **exports and imports in goods and services and transfer payments.**
- It represents a country's transactions with the rest of the world and, like the capital account, is a component of a country's Balance of Payment (BOP).
- There is a deficit in the Current Account if the **value of the goods and services imported exceeds the value of those exported.**

The major components are:

- Goods,
- Services
- Net earnings on overseas investments and net transfer of payments over some time, such as remittances.

It is **measured as a percentage of GDP.**

The formulae for calculating Current Account Balance are:

Current Account Balance = Trade gap + Net current transfers + Net income abroad.

(Trade gap = Exports – Imports).



Conclusion

Monitoring the trade deficit is crucial because of its direct bearing on the current account deficit (CAD).

Alarming, foreign direct investment helps bridge the CAD has seen moderation.

The wider the CAD, the greater the downward pressure on the rupee.

Which has already weakened considerably since the conflict in Eastern Europe began in February?

A weaker rupee makes imports costlier, potentially widening the trade deficit and thus triggering a vicious cycle.

3.”Sedition is a Colonial artifact and has chilling effect on freedom of speech, so it should be repealed” Discuss (150 words)

Sedition law

Section 124A defines sedition as " Whoever, by words, either spoken or written or by signs or by visible representation or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law shall be punished with imprisonment for life to which fine may be added".

Origins of the Sedition law

- Although Thomas Macaulay drafted the Indian Penal Code had included the law on sedition, it was not added to the code enacted in 1860.
- Legal experts believe this omission was accidental.
- In 1890, sedition was included as an offence under section 124A IPC through the Special Act XVII.



Freedom of Speech

- Recently, the sedition charges against students, activists, journalists or cartoon makers has been in conflict with the legitimate exercise of freedom of speech and expression enshrined under Article 19 of the Indian constitution.
- Under the present law, the sedition law is being misused as a tool to persecute political dissent.

Conclusion

Balancing freedom of expression with collective national interest is one of the key ingredients of this law. However, dissent and criticism of the government are essential ingredients of robust public debate in a vibrant democracy. They should not be constructed as sedition

4. “With its immense strategic relevance as an Indian security concern, a stable, secure and friendly Nepal is one requisite which India can’t afford to overlook”. Discuss. (150 words)

Introduction

As close neighbours, India and Nepal share unique ties of friendship and cooperation characterized by an open border and deep-rooted people-to-people contacts of kinship and culture.

There has been a long tradition of free movement of people across the border.

Nepal shares a border of over 1850 km with five Indian states – Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

The India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 forms the bedrock of the special relations that exist between India and Nepal

Areas of Cooperation between India-Nepal

1. Defence
2. Disaster Management



3. Connectivity and Development Partnership
4. Major Resource cooperation
5. Education

MAJOR PROVISIONS OF INDO-NEPAL TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP

- An open border between the two countries
- Allows Nepali nationals to work in India without a work permit, to apply for government jobs and the civil services (except for the IFS, IAS, and IPS)
- To open bank accounts and buy property.
- Incidentally, India had waived its rights under reciprocity as a sign of goodwill.

Conclusion

- The need to boost demand and empower Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises with soft institutional liquidity support.
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- A collaborative effort will help in increasing national economic productivity and mitigating the systemic risk on the economic front.
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- India will, undoubtedly, go the extra mile to help Nepal ensure a speedy and comprehensive recovery.

5. Comment on the findings of the World Press freedom index on India (150 words)

Introduction

Countries are evaluated on five Contextual indicators

1. Political context
2. Legal framework
3. Economic Context



4. Socio-Cultural Context
5. Safety

Key findings On India

- The report says India is “One of the most dangerous countries for the media”. It highlights that "Supporters of Hindutva, the ideology that spawned the Hindu Far Right, wage all-outline attacks on any Views that conflict with their thinking

- On '**Political Context**'

Originally a product of the anti-colonial movement, the Indian press used to be a progressive one but things changed radically in the mid-2010s

- On '**Legal Framework**'

Indian law is protective in theory but charges of defamation, sedition, contempt of court and endangering national security are increasingly used against journalists critical of the government

- On '**Media Context**'

Media outlets largely dependent on advertising contracts with local and regional governments

- On '**Socio-Cultural**'

The enormous diversity of Indian society is barely reflected in the mainstream media

- On '**Safety**'

The ability to gather news without risk without any bodily harm has become a considerable concern

Statistics

- Countries are ranked after being assessed with scores ranging from 0 to 100
- 100 being the highest possible level of press freedom and 0 the worst
- The scoring has two components 1) **Quantitative one-Tallies abuses against journalists and media houses**
- 2) **Qualitative analysis- Based on the responses of freedom specialists (journalists, researchers, human rights defenders)**
- India, which had a global score of 53.44 in the 2021 Index, this time it's only 41



6. Indian cinema as a Soft power. Discuss (150 words)

Introduction

India is an enlightened nation with a vibrant soft power inheritance. The country is vividly conscious of the weight of its cultural engagement and requires putting in little **more effort to present its culture fascinating to the corners of the world.**

Cinema As soft Power

Indian cinema is our country's soft power which rules the hearts of millions of people across the world. Through entertainment, Indian cinema has succeeded in creating an identity for India in the world.

Highest number of films in the world are made in India

Recent Blockbusters like Bahubali opened up the market for Indian cinema in the wester world

Recent nominations for Oscars from the movie RRR can reflect how world is looking at the Indian cinema

Historical pluralistic soft power possessed by India

- India has an optimistic **vision of a relatively pluralistic government, non-violent, and liberal with a non-threatening global leadership.**
- Distinguished personages like **Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, literature, music, dance, software industry, Ayurveda, etc.,** produce an extraordinary array of soft power assets that portray the attractiveness of India to the foreign populace.
- The importance of respect, harmony and fraternity are the essences that Indians are recognized for, with **Ashoka, Buddha and Gandhi standing as principal representatives.**



- Mythological epics such as Mahabharata and Ramayana are compared with the great Greek writings like Odyssey and Iliad.
- India was appreciated as the 'Golden Bird' between 1 and 1000 AD for its GDP, which was also ahead of China back then. This eventually brought migrants, traders and invaders like 'Alexander the Great' to India.

Conclusion

Cinema can play a major role in nation branding initiative and significant steps taken to promote it as the soft power- **Anurag Thakur (Hon.Minister of Information and Broadcasting Govt of India)**

Minister's 2-Day Seminar on 'Indian Cinema and Soft Power' Concludes in Mumbai; discusses ways to take forward Indian films to global audiences and discusses India's potential to become a content sub-continent of the world.

7. SCO has emerged as a key regional organisation in the Eurasian space. Discuss the opportunity for India to fulfill its national interest (150 words)

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

- It is a permanent Intergovernmental International Organisation created in 2001.
- It is a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- The Charter was signed in June 2002 and came into force on 19 September 2003.
- This is a fundamental statutory document which outlines the organisation's goals and principles, as well as its structure and core activities.
- India and Pakistan became members in 2017.



India's opportunity

1. Regional integration:

The lack of connectivity has also hampered the development of energy ties between the hydrocarbon-rich region and India

2. Security energy trade and geopolitical

SCO members have, in the past, expressed fears of the organisation being held hostage to India's and Pakistan's adversarial relationship, and their fears would likely have worsened in recent times

3. Promote connectivity and stability across borders

Both India and Pakistan have no bilateral engagement at present and have not attended other regional meets, India is expected to host the SCO summit in 2023. In October, a joint anti-terrorist exercise titled "Manesar- Antiterror-2022" will be held on the NSG training campus.

It will be followed by another joint border operation of the SCO member states called "Friendship Border-2022" in Kazakhstan later this year.

Conclusion

Strengthening mutual trust and neighborliness among the member states.

Promoting their effective cooperation in politics, trade, the economy, research, technology and culture as well as in education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental protection and other areas.

SCO moving forward with the above goals, if it can achieve any of it, it will be a key regional player in the Eurasia Region



8. Do you think the United Kingdom should pay reparations to India to compensate for its colonial activities and economic exploitation of India? Critically comment (150 words)

Introduction

In 2002, Nelson Mandela, the first president of post-apartheid South Africa said that the formal colonial powers had the responsibility to financially assist South Africa

He Said "Africa doesn't want charity but financial assistance, because colonial powers exploited Africa.

It is the time they put those resources back into the development of the Continent"

History of Reparations

- Germany extracted it from French after the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71—the sum equaled what Napoleon had extracted from Prussia early in the Century
- In return, All the allied powers extracted it from Germany after the World War-I
- Germany also paid Israel Three billion over 14 years to compensate Jews killed or robbed during the Holocaust
- France as the colonial power agreed after decades of fighting to let the rebels be if they paid three times the island's (Haiti) annual production as reparation
- In the US-Civil War, emancipated slaves were persuaded to fight for the Union with the promise of 40 acres and a mule when the war ended-a promise was never honoured

Compensation

Compensatory payments are complicated because, how does anyone can calculate them in what terms. If it is distributed who gets how much

- I. For Large countries like China and India, no reparations can never be enough to make up for what was done to them



- II. When the small concession in climate or trade negotiations is grudgingly given, one can expect the payments that would measure up to justice

9. Discuss socio-cultural and economic challenges to bring down fertility rate in India (150 words)

Introduction

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the average number of children per woman. There is decline in TFR from 2.2 in 2015-16 to 2.0 in 2021.

A population explosion is a sudden increase in the number of individuals in a particular species.

Body

There are many socio economic challenges which hinder the fertility rate in India which are as follows

Every religion in India promotes one policy and that is breed and multiplies except Buddhism, hence high fertility rate is highly supported by religious institutions which led to appropriate size of the families

An evident factor in Hindu society is institutional Marriages, a man has to go through certain stages in his life like Ashramas, and he has to perform all his duties. Marriage is a responsibility which he needs to fulfil

There used to be custom in Hindu community, a girl has to get married before she attains puberty and she will bear the children from the early age of her life

There is a taboo in our society on women; women who cannot bear children will be looked down in general

There is a mind-set in Indian society that having a boy child is must because Son will take care of them at their old age, so people do determined to have a son until they do and end up having many girl child's and many children in total



Even though second most populated country in the world, Sex is a taboo topic discussing in public which lead to less knowledge in the people regarding contraceptives and condoms etc.

Adoption rules are rigid as well as complex and fertility of women is continues to high which is the reason why India was famous for Surrogacy among western countries

Conclusion

Rapid Population always causes many issues like food security, health security and distribution of farmland, personal income, unemployment, and illiteracy rate

High population can hinder the standards of living

Increasing literacy, creating awareness among the masses, make sure the availability of contraceptives in the public can help the situation

10. What is security, discuss the India's challenges and strategies towards security (150 words)

Security

Security implies freedom from threats. Security relates only to extremely dangerous threats

Threats that could so endanger core values that those values would be damaged beyond repair if we did not do something to deal with the situation



Notions of security can be studied under two groups:-

- Traditional
- Non-traditional conceptions of security

INDIA'S SECURITY STRATEGY

- India has faced traditional (military) and non-traditional threats to its security that have emerged from within as well as outside its borders. Its security strategy has four broad components, which have been used in a varying combination from time to time.
- **The first component was strengthening its military capabilities** because India has been involved in conflicts with its neighbours — Pakistan in 1947–48, 1965, 1971 and 1999; and China in 1962. Since it is surrounded by nuclear armed countries in the South Asian region, India's decision to conduct nuclear tests in 1998 was justified by the Indian government in terms of safeguarding national security. India first tested a nuclear device in 1974.
- **The second component of India's security strategy has been to strengthen international norms and international institutions to protect its security interests.** India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, supported the cause of Asian solidarity, decolonisation, disarmament, and the UN as a forum in which international conflicts could be settled. India also took initiatives, to bring about a universal and non-discriminatory non-proliferation regime in which all countries would have the same rights and obligations with respect to weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, biological, chemical).
- It argued for an equitable New International Economic Order (NIEO). Most importantly, it used non-alignment to help carve out an area of peace outside the bloc politics of the two superpowers. India joined 160 countries that have signed and ratified the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which provides a roadmap for reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases to



check global warming. Indian troops have been sent abroad on UN peacekeeping missions in support of cooperative security initiatives.

- The third component of Indian security strategy is geared challenges within the country. Several militant groups from areas such as the Nagaland, Mizoram, the Punjab, and Kashmir among others have, from time to time, sought to break away from India. India has tried to preserve national unity by adopting a democratic political system, which allows different communities and groups of people to freely articulate their grievances and share political power towards meeting security.
- Finally, there has been an attempt in India to develop its economy in a way that the vast mass of citizens are lifted out of poverty and misery and huge economic inequalities are not allowed to exist.
- There is a pressure on the democratically elected governments to combine economic growth with human development. Thus democracy is not just a political ideal; a democratic government is also a way to provide greater security.

(UPSC EXAM NOTES UNIQUE FEATURES)

**01**

Books

Integrated Mains & Prelims Mentorship (IMPM) Subscribed Aspirants can access the books provided by [upsceexamnotes.com](https://www.upsceexamnotes.com). All General Studies books will be available according to Time-Table prepared by subject experts.



Create Notes

02

- While Reading a Book, Aspirant can create their snippets or complete notes on any particular topic and can be saved, it will be saved in their profiles and can be edited and downloadable.
- Aspirants can create notes on the Newspapers provided by [upsceexamnotes](https://www.upsceexamnotes.com) on a daily basis, if an aspirant prepares notes for one month from a newspaper it will be their current affairs magazine. It can be saved and downloadable from their profiles.

**03**

Create Questions

Aspirants can create Questions on any particular topic while they are reading. It gives a different view for the aspirants to think from an examiner's point of view. It gives an edge in answering the question in the exam.



Test Series

04

[upsceexamnotes](https://www.upsceexamnotes.com) will conduct Prelims & Mains exam every Sunday (104 (52 Prelims & 52 Mains)) for a year starting from August 2022. The test series will be on the timetable displayed on the website for that particular month.

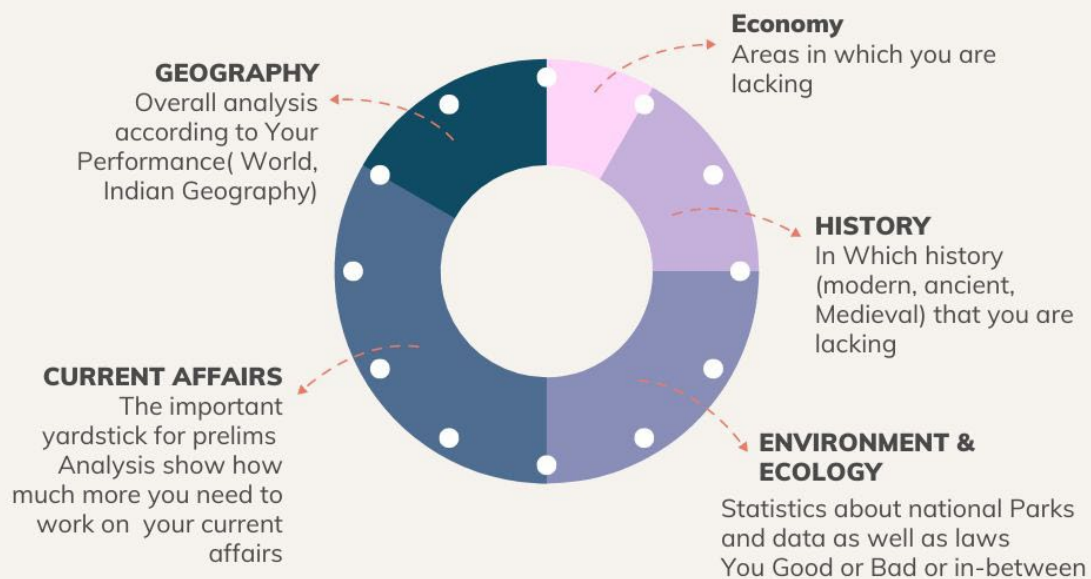
**05**

Tutors

Aspirants can ask doubts to tutors (Subject experts) from their profiles through chat. Subject experts will reply in the meantime ASAP.

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