

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

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4.

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All the Best

Achieving balanced regional development in India: Challenges and strategies

Have you ever wondered what makes earthen pots so beautiful? Well the shape, symmetry and perfection of casting may provide some answers. But then how are they made so beautiful? The answer lies in the spinning potter's wheel and dedicated hands ^{molding} ~~modelling~~ the mud over it. Care is taken that no side peaks out or the other is depressed. If so happens then the potter adjusts the extra mud into deserving place. Some obstacles, stone particles are weeded out to give smoothness of surface. And with continued spinning the pot attains a jointness of mud which is not ready to disassemble (untill breakdown of course)

What is most amusing in this example is the corollary it sets ^{with} ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~process~~ ^{process} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~building~~ ^{building}.

To begin with, none of the nations ^{were} ~~are~~ a perfect symmetry of shape or regions ^{in them} homogeneous.

But it is the dedicated crafting by its citizen, ^{whose} ~~those~~ delicate transfer of mud to deficient parts and a spinning on course of time which promises to yield a Nation. This casting is nothing but balancing act to promote regional development.

~~Having understood~~ The aspiration of original potters, i.e. the constitution makers and the citizens, declaring their wish through the preamble, ^{asked} of an egalitarian, justice based society. Since the demand of regional development is a long one, the questions worthy of asking ~~what~~ is have we ~~are~~ achieved regional development in a balanced manner?

Current picture of development status

On political fronts there are regions which keeps demanding special status, there are sections secessionist in orientation, there ~~are~~ ^{are} gender whose achievement of rights diminishes with distance from city. Economic imbalance in development is most easily visible where state like Maharashtra, Gujarat with lower GDP numbers more than the national average, and while the picture is not so rosy for states like Bihar. On environmental front too the cost of development are exorbitant for nature of few states.

Thus the achievements are not fulfilling for the aspirations of constitution makers. This asks for a detailed discussion of challenges which hinder such ^{to} balance.

Challenges or Roadblocks for a balanced regional development

Political challenges are the most crucial as form the bedrock of all other concerns. There has been a trend where the states with a larger political voice commanding disproportionate attention of ruling class. while others like North East remain unattended due to lack its ~~of voice~~ unheard voice. Not issues remain with devolution of power, i.e. those who belong to a locality, understands the quality are pushed to oblivion and a top down dictum of one size fit all approach is pushed down the throat. Third major issue is of political right; while it is an constitutional achievement for most of the nation but those tribals thiving in harshness of climate remains perpetually deprived of rights

Economic challenges are born out of unequal distribution of mineral wealth in the country. This was compounded by ~~an~~ a further unequal spread of human capital formation by education policies of different region.

Steps like green revolution enabled few states to top the GDP chart while manual labour of other regions was forgotten or worse forced to migrate & demand economic dividend.

Connectivity of the region is another determinant where ~~the~~ ~~see~~ entire region of North east, despite of very high economic potential remains in shadows of misery due to want of connectivity.

Social causes come to forefront when the dictum of larger nation's society is not in sync with local culture. For example the homogenous

Tribal society with its collective land ownership has found no takers and they are pushed further down the social hierarchy. Another cause is of migration where inward migration has caused heightened competition for resources and associated violence, slum creation and other ills of rapid urbanisation. While the ~~se~~ regions from where people move to out are deprived of its human resource potential and hindered creation of economic activities.

Demographic challenges lies in exceedingly high growth rate of state, collectively known as BIMARU states while among these only are some like Assam which has nearly 3 times maternal mortality rate as compared to national average. This impedes the balance among regions of human resource.

External factors also influence development of regions. Port regions have flourished due to their better connectivity with outside world. While region of Jammu and Kashmir bleeding by shelling of Pakistan and a push for instability from outside. Similar reason lie in external funding of Maist insurgency which target development and want to keep regions underdeveloped.

Environmental factors where few region which are providers of environmental benefits due to their vast forest resource are not given due credits in absence of clear recognition of 'natural capital' and well established accounting for the same. Also development has caused huge negative externalities in environment, thus decreasing the sustainability ex River Kopili being polluted in Meghalaya.

Ethical causes lie in a thought process where few regions and people in them are considered only as means to an end and not end in themselves or disproportionate cost paid by tribal for national development by dam building.

So, this imbalance of regions is a thought for perpetuity? or there is some way to mend our pot, and spin the wheel again, this time casting it equal if not beautiful, well,

"Where there is a will, there is a way"

Strategies to achieve a balanced regional development

Political empowerment which has to be shared by all is the way ahead. ~~Methods to~~ And the only way to achieve is to devolve more

power in hands to those who understand ground ~~real~~ realities and have to live with it. ToB of social audit about the same thing and now is a time to institutionalise the social audit mechanism in the PRI system itself, thus encompassing entire gamut of schemes.

Tribal rights can be embedded by adding Xaxa committee recommendation to joint forest Forest Rights Act, 2005.

Economic balance needs a permanent institutional set up attempting for the same. Either finance commission (Article 280) can be made a permanent body or the Niti Aayog given powers of finance to devolve need based funds.

Schemes like UDAN, Sagarmala, Bharatmala, and national waterway development project if implement can entangle the intricate

economies of region and balance the development across spectrum.

Additional impetus should be given to cause human capital formation in erstwhile underdeveloped regions so that they not only demand development but themselves become a harbinger of the process.

Social cohesion is a must for the integrity of India and ~~there~~ there is a need of cultural synthesis ~~to~~ be developed and at same time weed out exploitation in form of bonded labour. So that entire nation can stand shoulder to shoulder and take burden of responsibility of development.

Problem of Migration due to demographic inequalities need a solution both in the source as well as destination region. When source need to ~~be~~ create more economic opportunities the destination need to develop a non ~~exclusive~~ exclusive

attitude toward those who migrate

Environmental factors of imbalance should be leveraged for development of service provider region through ~~the~~ tools like Payment of ecosystem services which is being implemented in Pakhal region of Himachal Pradesh. Similar tool if applied all India level can help North East regions, Western Ghats to preserve ecological uncertainty

Ethical factors should be brought in developmental policy orientation, where every human should be taken as an end in himself and not as a means to an end. The best tool to achieve such development is Grandhi's Testiman which ask us to remember the most poor face one has seen while deciding for future and to make sure that the decision will be of some use to him.

India and its unity has always remained an enigma for western thinkers who always claimed that India will collapse under the sheer weight of its diversity. But India stands stronger united in its diversity and to preserve this unity it is crucial to not let diversity turn into differences by promoting uniformity of development.

Ease of doing Science needs to complement Ease of doing business for long term growth and dynamism of the nation. ~~H.K. Gandhi~~

India was once claimed as the sink of Gold. The reason was prospering business of cotton, pepper and what not and it sucked the gold and with it foreign interests into India. ^{At that time} If someone ~~did~~ would have prophesied that a day will come when a small ^{island} ~~nation~~ will displace the Indian muslin out of trade, people would have laughed him off. But the science of James watt knew ~~now~~ no boundaries and Newcommen ^{was} destined to fulfill the same prophecy when he marked the beginning of industrial revolution with his spinning jenny.

This is not a one off incident but a recurring theme of all advances. Trade is the order of today but science is the ~~future~~ destiny

of tomorrow. Ease of doing business which
in current time ~~had~~ has acquired more
headline than ^{the} fall of Berlin wall, wants to
usher in the order of today only. And
India is also quite ambitious to gain
~~its~~ its fair trade share through EODB.
But as Governor of RBI once said, India
is not a miracle of a day but a long term
success story, and ^{so} for this long story the
characters ^{of story} need to envision for tomorrow too.
This is exactly where Ease of doing Science
is required.

This piece of writing dwells into detailed
dimensions of this need of today and tomor-
row only.

Indias aspirations of EODB

India with world's 3rd largest GDP ~~but~~ ^{and} also

world largest human workforce is justified
in its aspiration to materialise these
rosy numbers into trade ^{figures} ~~numbers~~ too.
(India currently has less than 2% of world
trade share)

Looking at this potential only government
has envisioned a dream of 5 trillion
economy and Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas
It has ~~also~~ pushed for the efforts of EODR
through infrastructural development (Sagarmala,
Bharatmala), procedural ease (GST, e-Bills),
governance reforms, faster clearances
(PARIVESH, e-ATITHI app, etc), etc.

But the catch here is the 5 trillion dream is for
2025, the SDG aligned goals for 2030,
will India end after that? Certainly not!
So, shouldn't we plan for times ahead?

Shortsightedness or the Myopia of ease of doing Business

Ease of doing business approach pre-occupies on ways to achieve trade efficiency and then give in all effort to achieve it.

But it neglects to factor in that there has to be a tomorrow, and tomorrow is not a constant of today, rather disruptive it is.

For instance EODB thinks about how to provide for a decent skilled workforce which know how to screw a bolt, but misses to imagine that competing nation are on track of automation where machines will not only screw the bolts on their own but also screw the job of million in country like India. Thus it misses to factor in Science of tomorrow to plan future in times of

tomorrow.

Another significant attempt is to develop infrastructural connectivity across regions to facilitate trade. But what it misses is the fact that climate change is the reality of very near future. What will be do if the ports are submerged or the airstrips are made so low like in Kochi that it works only in windows across the year.

~~So ease of D~~ So, promotion of ease of doing business only is like ^{running} a Triathlon without getting a bicycle and swimsuit for next stage.

It is here, ^{that} to fill this lacuna ~~that~~ ^{the} need of Ease of doing science is felt.

Ease of doing science and its prospects

Ease of doing science is the reflection of

research and developmental infrastructure in the country and the manner it facilitates all other sectors of society.

Role of Science in business

Science provides the easiest peep into the future, and who can better appreciate the value of such peeps, than the gamblers in business. for example if a travel company operator is told that the region will be flooded for most of the year. He will surely add boats to his fleet than new cars.

Science provide the ground for experiments and adaptability of for future. for example when Delhi wanted to curb pollution by CNG buses too, a minor scientific retrofitting allowed them to use 18% Hydrogen with greater efficiency and lower pollution without much addition on the cost.

Industry academia linkages provide competitive edge to industry for example modern mobile manufacturing industry where the discovery lithium ion batteries was leveraged into a booming mobile manufacturing potential by reducing battery size and ~~are~~ now one phone fits in many pockets.

Apart from microeconomic level, science also help government take macroeconomic decisions.

^{the} ~~Today~~ Skilling ~~from~~ program of government is largely market oriented and not future proof.

But such ^{only} ~~future~~ planning which keep dynamism of time in high hindsight, ~~are~~ the only aim destined for sustainability for example National Institute of Panchayati Raj development's scheme Climate resilient employment skills is one such program.

It can help government better distribute its finances, for example ~~also~~ climate or disaster resilient infrastructural planning not only saves on one time cost but also prevents wastage due to disasters.

Ease of doing business has spillover effects in society beyond businesses too. For example a robust Academia and pharmaceutical company link will not only provide faster discovery of drug ~~of~~ and business to company but also health dividends to larger society. Who can understand this better than Corona affected generation.

Similarly science can play an equally transformative role in areas of education, communication, societal development, governance, etc.

So ease of doing science is better than ease
of Doing business?

To avoid folly in our life, if you add food to
another, you can certainly be a master of foods
but there is nothing wise to you then.

Certainly Science is for future and an
essential component but Business is
flourishing today too and any ignorance
is criminal.

Government of India understand the
Importance of both and while pushing India
up the charts of Easing of doing business
it is also taking ~~robust~~ robust policy
measures to create an innovation
ecosystem. Schemes like Aatmanirbhar
mission, New education policy, Kisan
Yojana, all aims to achieve this only.

Future to complementarity

What more is required in government's approach is the attempt to create a linkage between industry and academia.

So that they become self-reliant and the industries demand for innovation ignites the bulb of research institutes and same way, the growth of knowledge in research, yield fruits to industry and together ~~the~~ they serve the larger society.

Government on its own should create a soft cushion to absorb failures and cost of them. Because science is not a days work but an act of tenacity and perseverance where acts of failure are more regular than stories of miracle.

There is only one dictum for such a future
ambitious country like India.

"Learn to fail, Learn to innovate, learn to
commercialise, India"