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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

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5.

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All the Best

Section A

Q4 Can environment protection and economic development go hand in hand?

2015 → Kedarnath floods. Economic loss: \$250 mn.

2016 → Heatwave in North India. Economic loss → \$500 mn.

2018 → Kerala floods. Economic loss → \$2 bn.

The above 3 are examples of nature's tyranny when it is exploited for skewed human gains.

~~On~~ 1960s → Uttarakhand, India, -

A group of the royal guards are about to cut khejri trees required for the construction of a new ~~side~~ addition for the palace. A group of women hug the trees and are actually slaughtered along with the trees. ~~Years later~~ Centuries later, the Chipko movement, taking inspiration from these nature lovers saves hundreds

and thousands of trees.

2019 → A tribe in Ecuador celebrates when the highest court of their land stops the government from expanding oil exploration in the Amazon rainforest.

So who is right? The group ready to accept no less than absolute environment protection, even at the cost of their lives; or the group that wants economic development — either tourism as in case of Kedarnath floods or pollution induced heatwaves in North India) at any cost?

~~The answer is - both.~~

What are the harms of taking economic development and environment protection as 2 separate, mutually exclusive goals?

To begin with, it is overutilization - As Gandhiji said - 'There is enough on this earth for everyone's need but not for any one's greed'. The 'tragedy of commons' - overutilization of common resources also points towards the same. This is pure wastage of ~~resources~~ resources which could have been beneficially utilized ~~to~~ for productive uses in current or future generations.

Secondly, nature's tyranny - "All fares the land where nature degrades and economy thrives." Increased ~~heat~~ occurrences of heat waves, Tsunami's, draughts, floods in all ~~are~~ continents are examples of how nature shows its wrath over its exploitation.

Moreover, this tyranny doesn't stop at ~~human~~ loss of human life (even that is economic loss), it includes massive loss of resources and stales back an economy to a shattered level of economic development from where it has to ~~develop~~ ~~eco~~ begin economic reconstruction again. The recent Kerala floods took Kerala back in time to about 2 years in terms of economic development.

Finally, ~~we~~ ~~realiz~~ considering that economic 'development' is not mere GDP numbers or the number of people above poverty line, it is much more than that. Much recent ~~figs~~ ~~figs~~ measuring tools like HDI, MDPI, HCI, GHI point out to the multiple dimensions economic development can take.

Almost all of them point to the inclusiveness of 'economic development'. In other words, an economy undergoes 'development' only when the fruits of its success are reaped by the most vulnerable sections as well. If we consider environment protection as a separate goal and go on chasing growth numbers, we are making the vulnerable section more vulnerable. As ~~the~~ environment degradation leaves the highest impact on the most vulnerable sections. - ~~poor~~. Pooors in all parts, poor nations, small coastal countries are at the highest risk of losing their livelihoods and even their lives. A heatwave may not impact an MNC employee working in air-conditioned office but can be life threatening for a farmer ploughing her/his field.

Thus, environment protection & economic development are certainly not mutually exclusive. So both our groups (referred to in the initial question) need to strike the right balance.

Why should both - environment protection and economic development go together?

On a social and moral upfront, an economic development which considers environment protection as an inherent goal is inclusive and takes care of the most vulnerable population and nations. The Brundtland commission report on sustainable development recognized this and since then, all environment discussions ~~and~~ at the international fora have ensured the intertwined

nature of economic development and environment protection.

Secondly, not paying heed to nature and its sustainable use comes to bite us back in the form of economic losses. If however,

thirdly, at international cooperation level, most countries that identify common environmental challenges to their lives and economies are ready to cooperate at all levels. Sometimes, this enhanced cooperation which began as a ~~the~~ common vulnerability can be used for enhancing economic and other development ties as well. France and India coming together as global leader for ISA ~~is~~ and the resultant enhanced cooperation is also visible in their enhanced ~~the~~ ~~the~~ defence and economic ties as well.

Above all, it is the basic way of life for humans. ~~This is the~~ Developing in complete harmony with nature is how humans have evolved over generations and centuries. Indian culture, in particular, with its sacred groves & animal worship points towards the importance of living in harmony with nature and environment.

Balancing both - the knife edge

Lack of environment protection feeds back as economic degradation and lack of economic development feeds back as massive overutilization and degradation of environment. A far fine balance, much like a knife edge point is needed. To ensure this, ~~a few~~ cooperation and dedication at multiple levels is required -

International cooperation -

The international fora has now well recognized that it is not possible to accept any commitments for environment protection from LDCs and developing countries that are struggling to provide basic amenities to majority of their population. Common but differentiated responsibilities, self declared - Nationally determined goals, development mechanisms under Kyoto Protocol are some innovative mechanisms to ensure that these nations are not completely left behind and are helped by the developed world to fasten their pace of reaching the level of economic development where these LDCs can also start focussing on the environment goals.

At the national level, a lot needs to be done - ~~to begin with,~~ ~~going back to nature~~ Realizing that the Indian way of life has been in harmony with nature, we need to figure out ~~out~~ an environmentally sustainable path. Ensuring that India takes a greener route to the \$5tn economy target is the key. Our ~~so~~ high focus on incentivizing switching to electric vehicles would not just save us from the tyranny of pollution and smoke but would also save us a widening CAD, rising inflation as fuel prices fluctuate and will also hold the potential of making India a hub of E-vehicles manufacturing and thus enhancing job creation and Make in India.

Similarly, ISA does not only strengthens India's position as ~~an~~ an economic power and a leader but is also helpful in reducing electricity cost with solar power charges dropping to ₹ 2 /unit. ~~and~~ It is also helping to ensure that electric connectivity reaches the poorest ~~and~~ through schemes like KUSUM, focusing on carbon neutrality, abolishing ^{single use} plastic waste, going back to ^{organic farming} (Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana) all point out to the fact that India has realized ~~its~~ the importance of this delicate balance.

Strengthening and fastening Environment impact assessment surveys and considering steps like quick clearance (like the Parivesh scheme) are important to ensure that environment protection doesn't become a hindrance in EODB.

Ensuring that the tribal way of life is protected and that their connect with nature is made remunerative is ~~app~~ worthy of Appreciation. MSP on minor forest produce ~~and the link is~~ another such step. ~~TRIFED crea~~

We ~~as~~ as a nation need to learn more from tribals. ~~exam~~. Innovative ~~to~~ schemes to integrate tribals as protectors of the environment ~~and~~ while ensuring that they don't leave forests or harm environment to make ends meet are the need of the hour.

Bringing in civil society organizations, corporate environment responsibility, ~~and~~ is another way of ensuring that profits earned from utilizing the resources of nature are reaped back for its regeneration. ~~and it is important~~

Extended producer responsibility was introduced in plastic waste rules should be properly implemented. Considering it to expand to all waste rules can be a good step.

~~Finally, changing citizen~~
~~the~~ National green Tribunal is an innovative step. However, the limited number of its seats act as a hindrance for litigants from far flung areas of the country. Increasing its ^{benches} ~~seats~~ should be considered. Proper functioning of CAMPA is also required.

Finally, changing citizen behaviour to ensure that consumerism fed economic development doesn't feed into environmental degradation is the need of the hour. Preventive & Punitive actions by the Government are not sufficient. Citizens need to take an initiative.

Communicating to the citizens how their small actions leave massive impacts can be taken up by Government advertising and Civil Society. Examples like how massive plastic use ~~has~~ leads to drainage blocking and flooding in megacities like Mumbai ~~can be used to~~ campaigns in schools and colleges would be of help.

Nature is the basic source of all our resources for economic development. The 20th century fought wars for oil. This resulted in many economies ~~to~~ back tracing their journeys of economic development. If we still don't realize the importance of sustainability and environmental

harmony of economic development, we will certainly have to fight massive wars and waste our economic development' for securing our most basic needs like water. The solution is simple - let economic development and environment protection go hand in hand. Together we can ensure that Kedarnath floods, Maharashtra draughts and heatwaves do not happen again.

Section B

Sports as an agent of social change.

Scene 1

2018 winter olympics saw a historical event. ~~I~~ 2 bordering ~~nations~~ nations technically at war with each other for more than 50 years decided to participate together. The world applauded when North Korea decided to send its ~~team~~ team for winter olympics!

Scene 2

In a small village in India, where roads don't connect directly to the highway and it is not uncommon to find a fight or two daily on the lines of caste or religion, 20 people - men, women and children of all ages, religion and caste ~~are~~ are trying to figure out the scores ^{on a radio} as the commentator ~~tries~~ tries to describe the ongoing India - Pakistan match.

Scene 3 -

In narrow lanes of West Bengal - in towns, small and large cities, ⁱⁿ ~~stums~~ even in stums, young ^{& old} ~~people~~ with footballs and walls painted of Ronaldo & Messi are a common sight. FIFA is here!

Cutting across the very stringent lines of caste, creed, religion or even nationality, sports have always emerged as a heartwarming, informal way of social change.

At the international level - . Much like the North Korea and South Korea examples, sports can be cited as an ingredient used as soft diplomacy through ages. Instances of chess games or chariot races organized by kings with neighbouring

kingdoms is not rare and so is ~~the~~ India and Pakistan facing each other in a world cup match even though all 'hard diplomacy' talks stand still.

Sometimes undoubtedly, things can go wrong. The roots of the great Kurukshetra war can be traced back to a sport and even today, an India Pakistan match can spark some unfortunate debates on social media. However, we have almost equal number of Tendulkar & Kohli fans ~~and~~ on both sides of the border.

At the ~~Nati~~ levels of individual societies and a nation -

To begin with, sports are the healthiest way to channelize the energy of a nation's youth.

A healthy sports participation at each level and incentive provoking competitions, can ensure that the youth is not misguided at any point in life to use their energy in self degrading ~~or~~ social ways.

Scenes like that of the opening scene 2 village are not uncommon. If a mere community can bring together people ~~to hear community~~ cutting across the hard lines of caste creed, religion, gender, ~~the~~ sports have a long way to go. No one bothers about the caste of an olympic medalist. ~~No~~ ~~the~~ A Commonwealth gold by a woman ~~wrestler~~ wrestler is equally celebrated.

With the rising drug menace and high alcohol use and suicides, a frequently blamed factor is high level of tension & depression in youth. If used properly, sports can act as a potent weapon against this social menace of drugs as well.

The most massive impact is at the individual level (And as a society is the sum total of its individuals, a change in ~~the~~ huge number of individuals depicts itself as a change social change).

First of all, individuals active in sports are healthy. A healthy society ensures higher productivity, lower disease burden and cost saving on hospital bills.

Apart from the physical impact, sports leave a deep and massive psychological and emotional impact ^{on} individual's character and personality. It helps them to ~~develop~~ -
1) team spirit - This habit is not just required on sports grounds but is every set up - from corporate to bureaucracy.
Most of the ice ~~breaking~~ breaking orientation

sessions in schools, colleges and corporates involve sports. It takes out a person from the zone of being an arrogant lone wolf to ^{the zone of} a participative herd elephant.

2) Learn to take defeats - Handling defeats is a major concern in this highly competitive world. Large number of student suicides in coaching centres or after failing in exams points to this. Sports teach the value and importance of defeat, makes a person humble and motivates a person to fight again after improvisation.

3) Acceptance for different people - Somewhere in our race towards developments, our acceptance for variety is getting subdued. We moreover, we still ~~debate and~~ have to deal with communal and caste based violence. Sports ensure

that an individual starts appreciating the actual talents of human beings and develops an acceptance for 'humans' and their 'calibre' and not their 'religion', 'caste' or 'sexuality'.

4) Constructive competition/learning

from others - M S Dhoni learnt his ~~best~~ famous 'helicopter shot' from one of his teammates from an early ~~to~~ state level match even though he himself was the best in the team.

Sports teach a person humility and that there is always a scope of learning and improvement. Instead of jealousy, sports breed in ~~they~~ a constructive competition which helps in learning and self improvement.

5) Scientifically, sporting activities release ~~that~~ 'happy hormones' like Dopamine that help a person to remain healthy, happy & stress free. Sports can ~~thus~~ act as a potent weapon against depression.

Sports can thus act as an innovative tool for social change.

India has however, yet not ^{completely} realized the importance of potential of sports as an agent of social change. Lack of funds for sport bodies at regional, state or national levels, pathetic conditions of players struggling to get their remuneration or pension or even decent sporting equipments, lack of coaching institutes, corruption in admissions to sports colleges, gender bias & in specific sports, all point to it.

Even at individual citizen~~ing~~ level, we as a society value studies more than sports.

Thus, a complete overhaul is needed. The ~~iss~~ structural issues leave sports as a professional choice

highly risky and non remunerative and this deters parents from ~~the~~ encouraging their children to make a career out of sports. This blocks the entry of good people ~~in~~ and the entire cycle continues leaving the sports environment in our country in shambles.

So what should be done?

At the policy level, ~~inter~~ incentivizing different sports, plugging in institutional gaps, increasing transparency (the BCCI case), ensuring flow of funds is required. A plan for regional and national sports universities is ~~the~~ needed for creating a conducive environment.

Recognized competitions at school level and adding sports as a scoring discipline can be considered.

No youth and sports should consider taking inputs from ex or current players about how the sports environment can be made more conducive.

~~Sports quota can be considered~~
giving due recognition & motivation to National level competitions for women teams of sports like cricket, football - ~~but~~ are required for ~~but~~ creating an acceptance for female participation in these games even at regional levels. ~~It~~

Showing inspiring stories of women who have excelled in the so perceived 'men's games' through media and films like Dargah and Mary Kom ~~are~~ show that we are moving towards being a more matured society. More such steps are required.

Mixed-gender teams should also be considered
sessions with mixed or current
sports persons, ~~and~~ and sharing their
struggles and journeys can be
further motivating for young kids.

Finally, as a society, we
need to understand the value and
importance of sports.

~~As~~ To begin with, understanding
that a highly talented sportsperson
is equally brilliant to a highly talented
academician and both can excel in
their respective fields is needed.

As Einstein puts it - 'If you accept a
fish to ~~can~~ climb tree, it would end
its life considering itself foolish',
realizing the true talent and
channelizing it is very important.

Apart from promoting sports as
a profession, ^{creating a conducive}
environment ^{is required for normal sports activities.}
~~so that~~ ^{people don't}
^{should not} consider playing a game or two
with friends and family as a waste of
their productive time but as a
stress buster, rejuvenating activity.
Publishing interviews of highly
successful CEOs and busy academici-
ans who do not compromise on
their morning run or weekend
golf is important ~~to~~ for proper
guidance of ~~you~~ ^{set} highly stressed
youth who tries to ~~to~~ choose the
path of drugs and alcohol ~~for~~
as their stress buster. (Thus,
helping to build up a society
free of the drug and alcohol
menace.)

With giving recognition to sports as a subject at school level, sports quota in admission for various colleges and jobs ~~and~~, mixed gender cricket games and increasing acceptance of parents for sports as ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~after~~ a professional choice for their children, India is on the right path. However, with massive structural and psychological bottlenecks, we have a huge road to tread on. India needs to 'run' on its path of using sports as an innovative tool of social change and uplift. Then will India achieve what Rudyard Kipling puts it as -

'If you can fill the unforgiving minute with 60 seconds of distance run, yours is the earth and everything underneath, my son.'

