

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.

6.

All the Best

SECTION A

2.

'Polycymaking must catchup with technology before it's too late.'

"Neither the strongest, nor the intelligent - must but the one who responds the best to the changes - survives."

— Charles Darwin

This Darwinianism is a key guiding light for us humans to always remain adaptive and responsive to our environment. It

finds application in every endeavour of human life + and society, one such key area is Polycymaking.

Polycymaking as a function derives its legitimacy from the modern political structures. As explained by the theory of

Social contract, we pool in our rights and put them under an authority to govern for the greater good of all concerned. Whatever be the nature of polity, states across the world undertake this crucial function of polycymaking. It is simply the task of defining the State's stance on certain issues to off influence the actions of citizens in a specific way.

Polycymaking in India traces its origin to the establishment of Republic of India. It is the sovereign domain of the various levels of governments established under the special quasi-federal structure of India's polity. Ever

since the Indian independence, various developmental challenges have been addressed through policymaking by constantly responding to the dynamic circumstances.

As we stand amidst the whirlwind of this 'Digital & Technological Revolution', policymaking is faced with special challenges and opportunities.

There are two crucial dimensions to the technology - Policymaking link - ① First, the methodology involved into policymaking and second, the subject-matter of policymaking.

The methodology or the process involved in the policymaking in India rests on delineated rules and procedures and ~~uses~~ ~~archive~~ relies heavily on traditional practices. Policymaking is most scientific when data based and human centric. The current processes evade both these factors to some extent, specially in the face of a changing demography and compounding technology.

The need of the hour is to make policymaking processes more data driven - technology can be of real help therein. Our present statistical methods are

based on personal door-to-door surveys by the National Statistical office. (that houses NSSO now). The data collection and processing is delayed and by the time policies could use that data, ground realities would have changed. Digital surveys based out of Common Service Centers and in rural areas and personal hand-held devices in other regions should be leveraged.

Besides, emerging technologies such as Big Data Analytics can help us expedite the data processing for public policymaking. Artificial Intelligence deployed in Facial Recognition Technology can be used for better traffic

management, crime control et all.

We are still far from the days when machine learning can indulge in policymaking but it can still be incorporated in routine data processing.

The Governments across the tiers - center, state and local, are awakened to the potential of these technologies in assisting policymaking. and platform like NDAP NDAP -

National Data and Analytics Platform

by Niti Aayog, Digital Swachh Survekshan, digitally enabled

recent livestock census 2019. are

good steps in this direction and

while a broader technological integration is awaited in the Indian policymaking.

The second dimension of policymaking - technology link is the subject matter. There are some critical areas in emerging technologies and the overall technology governance in the country where a void exists. There are clear policy vacuums in domains such as data protection & processing, emerging technologies like AI, Big Data Analytics, Machine Learning, 3D Printing, Virtual Reality, Blockchain and even the biotechnology.

Data, as rightly touted is the new oil. It is central to core competencies of the modern

nation states. India being a populous emerging market is a data resource like few others today. The data concerning Indian consumers is collected, processed and commercially exploited by all within and outside the country - including the government. This merits having a robust data Protection Policy and legislation lest the privacy be compromised for commercial gains.. There have been attempts at defining data Protection regime (eg - by B.N. Srikrishna Committee, 2018) & recent Draft Personal Data Reports yet a robust data policy is missing.

various technologies like the Big Data, AI, Machine Learning all rest on data sciences.

There is also a need to delineate India's specific policies on these emerging technologies due to their immense commercial potential & developmental potential as well as propensity for misuse. For instance, AI can help ease of living for the elderly and specially abled through its interactive platform communication technology at the same time the facial recognition can be misused in racial profiling (as recently reported in China). Thus clear policies guiding these technologies are needed.

Fintech offers immense potential for safe, quick and easy bank financial transactions. RBI

as the apex banking institution has been promoting and regulating fintech so far. Government needs to come up with a comprehensive policy on this so that the data localization and other issues in payment & settlement systems can be sorted out.

Blockchain, the promising distributed ledger for recording transactions is left in a void by Indian policymaking. In fact RBI last year came up with a circular banning cryptocurrencies (just one of the many applications of blockchain). Supreme Court lifted the ban citing regulatory overreaching. Government must delineate its stance on blockchain tech which has wide applications across sectors —

banking, insurance, smart contracts,
real estate, agriculture (derivative
trading) etc.

Government has identified the potential of these and other technologies and stepped up its efforts. The NM-QTA - National Mission on Quantum Technologies and Applications, is a Budget 2020 is a much welcomed move. The aim is to develop India's competence in Quantum Technologies to target India specific problems.

Other areas such as 5G trials are also being paid timely attention to.

The ensuing pandemic has exposed the need for advancement in biotechnology capabilities quite aptly. There is a policy level

intervention needed to cover issues of bio-ethics (eg. designer babies) & Intellectual Property Rights before projects like India Genome can fully realise their potential. Government promotes concerted research through various initiatives like the recent Accelerator Vigyan.

Therefore, the need for policymaking to integr. respond to tech challenges & opportunities is quite pronounced. Indian policymaking needs to heed the technological revolution because ~~p~~ as a developing, emerging market economy the investments are inadvertently ~~not~~ guided by policy stance. & A large part

of the population depends on public provisioning - technology at planning stage can make provisioning very targetted and useful for them.

Thus, as we turn to the 21st year of this 21st century technology is keeping us on our toes. It is the single biggest competing edge of most of the countries today. There is a need to factor technology into the "way" we make policies as well as "cover" all possible technological dimensions in policy domains. This is necessary for us to be able to respond to our developmental needs as well as have

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an edge in global trade and
diplomacy. Thus, to live up
through Darwinian logic Indian
policymaking must respond well to
these new challenges and opportunities
to survive this tech century. If
not done in time, we could be
pushed another hundred years behind
on the development graph.

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SECTION - B

7. Security in the 21st century can not be ensured without considering global health challenges.

As A.H. Maslow and Clayton Elderger would opine, human beings have an intrinsic need for 'safety and security'. It is a higher order need that has multiple dimensions and thus can be satisfied in multiple ways. As nations are understood as embodiment of people comprising the nation, they too have an intrinsic need for security.

Modern nation states are often seen grappling with the

definition of national security.
It is amidst a fast-paced,
dynamic and ever globalized
world. Traditional understanding
of security was limited to securing
people against aggression and
violence — both external and
internal. In this day and time,
"security" is multidimensional.

Security today is all
encompassing and in true sense
of the term means the safeguarding
of physical and mental well being
of people against threats of
violence, hunger, disease, poverty
et al.

The many dimensions of
security are pressing and in fact
interlinked — as shown by the

COVID-19 pandemic. What started off as an ~~has~~ unknown health emergency in one part of the world has today found inroads into the remotest regions and is refusing to let up. While the post-pandemic era is still at large we ~~so~~ can and must begin taking down lessons from the crisis. The present global interlinkages on account of trade and travel have exposed how our fortunes are interlinked - specially in the face of health emergencies. Thus global health can be effectively understood as a global common requiring common and concerted action.

The multidimensional impact that global health can

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have on our lives can be seen from how various security postures have been disrupted by the pandemic. To begin with, it poses challenges to physical security from disease. Specially in the face of contagious diseases, and COVID-19 is not the first such example. Diseases like HIV-AIDS, AIDS, Ebola, Swine Flu et al have reverberated this message.

The paralyzing effect of such contagious diseases poses challenges for routine operations impairing economic security the first thing. loss of livelihoods and incomes on account of lockdowns and low consumption demand in India and would over is a case in point in case. The impaired economic

security pushes people into poverty —
the most form of violence. Their
abilities to secure themselves
against any other threat goes down
substantially.

The next biggest threat
to security due to global health
challenges comes from food
insecurity. The pandemic showed
us how the global supply
chains were disrupted — countries
(even the most developed ones) like
Italy faced food shortages
when hit by the pandemic
as they are import dependent.
Even the rice producer China
had to recently import rice from
India (for the 1st time in
many decades) due to local
shortages and rising prices.

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India, being food secured did not thankfully face a shortage in terms of availability but affordability of food for people was affected. The government had to expand PDS to guarantee food security. Agriculture, the only sector that registered a positive growth when the GDP contracted in the first quarter of this financial year, too faced issues.

Labour shortages modified production patterns. eg - Direct Seeding of rice in Punjab over paddy transplantation. A major dimension of food security is doing away with "hidden hunger" - i.e.

malnutrition. World Food Programme had predicted that the fight against malnutrition in various countries will be hit due to the pandemic & imposed resource shortages.

India already ranks at the low of 94 on the Global Hunger Index, specially performing bad poorly on reducing child wasting. Thus the path to SDG-2 = "zero hunger" is hardened by such a pandemic.

The much significant task of environment protection and arresting climate security also stands stalled due to the pandemic. As countries imposed lockdowns there emerged a temporary relief of cleaner air but it was short lived. As life and livelihoods pick up, we are back on the "business as usual" albeit with a lesser focus on climate change and a reduced capacity to spend on it as countries bail out economic packages for recess economic recovery. The International Energy Agency in its

World Energy Outlook 2020 projected a reduced demand for energy due to the pandemic yet a backtracking on efforts towards cleaner energy. As we are lesser focused on the environmental sustainability due to an emergency at hand, we risk creating more climate refugees. Physical and economic insecurity will be aggravated — specially for the poor indigent.

While novel dimensions of security stand clearly affected, the traditional notion of physical security from violence is also not spared. The rise of "domestic violence" as a "shadow pandemic" owing to pandemic induced lockdowns & economic insecurity are a point in case. They were flagged off by UN Women.

and collaborated by Ministry of Women and Child Development in India. Not just domestic, violence is emanating from various sources can be aggravated due to global health emergencies. As countries compete for resources amidst economic downturn, trade wars intensify and could manifest into security challenges.

* Besides, the above, a renewed focus on mental healthcare has revealed how health emergencies affect mental health.

Depression & anxiety compounds due to the perpetual vulnerabilities of people to diseases and their aftermath.

UN - office of Drugs & Crime in its

Global Drug Report, 2020 suggested

that substance abuse would increase across globe and specially among the developing countries due to the perils of the pandemic. This imposes health and economic insecurity forming a vicious circle of tragedies.

Thus, the many dimensions of security are interlinked and a disruption on one account could have a spiralling effect across the vicious circle. The global health emergencies have time and again shown why it is pertinent to address it concertedlly to achieve substantial growth & development. The recent pandemic, the most paralysing and jeopardizing that the modern world

has witnessed recently repeats the lesson for us. If sincere efforts results towards "security" of humans and their environments have to made reaped these lessons must be learnt or else they will be repeated till they are. The old adage "Health is wealth" could not have been impressed upon us more sincerely - it's time we act now and in unison.

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