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24 SEP 2017

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SUBJECT:		Test Code:		9	3	1
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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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6.

All the Best

Indian agriculture is, in a way, a victim of its own past success

Agriculture is the backbone of Indian Economy. More than 50% population of India is still dependent upon this sector. The farming sector has transcended through various ups and downs in the last 5 centuries which has its contribution in the development of its present state.

Before the arrival of Britishers on Indian land, the state of agriculture was largely subsistence in nature. People were producing for their own consumption, society and their village. They were self-sufficient in fulfilling their needs. However, there were surplus production as well in areas such as spices (produced mainly in Southern India); Cotton (West and East India) etc. which attracted the Europeans as well to this land of riches.

With the arrival of British and their rule of two hundred years, the Indian agriculture underwent a significant change. There was transformation from subsistence agriculture to commercial farming. They introduced plantation cropping in the country. This led to development of crops like Indigo, tea, coffee, rubber etc. on a large scale compromising with food grains, causing famines on a large scale e.g. Bengal Famine in which millions of people perished.

On the eve of Independence, Indian agriculture was backward and stagnant. It had sluggish growth and was unable to provide food security to the Indian people. It was marred with lack of modernisation, technology and lack of attention.

After Independence, the Indian Government adopted five year planning concept. In the first two plans, focus was given on large scale irrigation projects and dams. It was believed, as per Nehru-Mahalanobis model, that development of industry will lead to the development of agriculture per se via the trickle down effect model. However, the same did not materialise and we had to suffer a severe food crisis in 1965. To meet the needs, the Indian Govt. imported food grains from United States under its PL-480 scheme. This was an eye opener for the entire policy making fraternity and materialised into the Green Revolution.

In the 3rd five year plan, Green revolution i.e. revolution in the field of Agriculture was given the top most priority by the Government. The

same was overseen by a great agricultural scientist Mr. M. S. Swaminathan. It aimed at providing high yielding variety crops seeds, (Mexican dwarf wheat; rice from Phillipines to farmers) water supply, electricity, setting up of tube wells ~~by~~ ^{via} govt. subsidy, weather forecast to farmers, providing minimum support prices for crops in order to encourage farmers and prevent the distress sale, farmer suicide. It was a great leap forward in the field of agriculture. Till 2010, while the population of India increased by 3 times but the production of agriculture increased from around 50 Mn tonnes in 1960's to approximately 265 Mn tonnes in 2010 (as tabled in the Parliamentary Report). The Indian Nation ensured its food security via this mission.

However, the success of Green revolution is haunting the present state and the future progress of Indian agriculture. The Green revolution was launched in a few states of Northern and Central India (UP West, Punjab, ~~MP~~ etc.). It was believed that the growth in the states will trickle down and will create a spill over effect on agriculture of other states as well. But the things did not go as projected. Only the selected few states and the chosen crops grew. This led to prosperity of a few states and poverty of others. The farmers of the selected states like Punjab, Haryana, West UP etc. became richer and undertook farming activities on a large scale. At the same time, agriculturists, farmers of regions like North-East remained poor. They do not have enough income & capital to invest in the development

and of agriculture and horticulture sector which has huge potential. Consequently, agricultural activities are not picking up in these states. This situation reinforces the fact that achievements of Green Revolution brought with itself tears for farmers of non-cereal crops.

In a similar fashion, as the farmers of Northern states benefitted from the farming growth, they had enough income and capital to invest in. Simultaneously, the Government provided them with free electricity, free water etc. All this led to reckless use of such resources. Consequently, the areas of Punjab are facing problem of water shortage which hampers the growth of present agriculture. It has also resulted into soil erosion, soil salinization, ^{and land degradation} reducing the agricult

-real productivity in the region. Farming there has become a high input-output ratio activity making it unprofitable for various farmers. Hence, many people are moving away from this sector reducing the area under cultivation. It has

also been observed in the empirical studies that due to growing wealth and clout of such farmers, they started putting political pressure on the Government to not to stop free power, free water etc. creating a free-rider problem and promoting the sustenance of unviable agricultural activities.

During the Green Revolution, in order to encourage cereals production for ensuring food security, Government announced minimum support price for crops like Rice & wheat to prevent distress sale in case of surplus production. However,

Over time the issue of MSP has become politicised. It is seen that Govt. announces such support price on only a few crops like wheat, rice, sugarcane wherein the interests of a few large farmers are taken care of. But at the same time we have almost completely neglected the non-cereals crops like oilseeds, pulses, fruits and vegetables. They are important to ensure nutrition security of the nation. The Indian Govt. spends millions of rupees to import them leading to increasing fiscal deficit as well. Around 40% of fruits & vegetables are being wasted every year due to non-creation of appropriate warehousing facilities for this other side of agriculture. Moreover, there are no support prices announced for these leading to distress sale and farmers not being able to recover even their costs. This is leading

to a shift towards crops which are more profitable. The recent fall in prices of tomatoes to as low as 3/kg substantiates the same which was followed by sky-rocketing prices of the commodity (upto ₹ 60/kg) due to farmers not producing the same.

Taking it forward, in the last two decades, with the introduction of transgenic crops, there was multi-fold increase in production as seen in the case Bt Cotton. This led to farmers shifting aggressively towards this genetically modified crops and leaving the indigenous variety altogether. But the recent attack of Bollworm pests on the GM crops (at the same time not affecting the indigenous variety) has substantially reduced the cotton yield. The farmers are left in a dilemma as to whether to move back to the indigenous variety or continue

the same. This has seriously affected cotton cultivation. Moreover, the same is causing various health effects as well causing country wide protests.

To achieve success is difficult but to remain successful is even more difficult. Due to success in the agricultural sector, the Indian government did not focus much on innovative practices, research and development in the field of agriculture. Only a handful of agriculture universities were established with inadequate resources, lack of proper faculty etc. The youth was not attracted to the agricultural sector. Development of agricultural education holds key to the future of this sector, as pointed out by chief Economic Adviser to Govt. of India.

For National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, it has been observed

that once the goal of food security was achieved, the regime did not focus on leveraging the success of this revolution to further increase the grains. No focus was given on development of food processing industries which could have excellently utilised the surplus production and saved the wastage of fruits etc. by increasing their shelf life. If adequate attention would have been paid to this sector, the farmers woes and worry would have been reduced preventing distress in the sector and reducing farmers suicide.

From the above arguments, it can be concluded that the production has increased many fold but at the cost of present productivity. The present agricultural problems like farmers suicide, lack of productivity, water salinisation causing diseases due to overuse of

pesticides, unincreasing crop losses etc. have to be minimised. The recent steps by the Government like Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Krishi Unnat Yojana; Soil Health Card Scheme; Parampar - agat Krishi Vikas Yojana have to be implemented in full spirit and real to double the farmers income by 2022 as envisaged by PM Modi. Apart from the above, specific steps in area of training farmers on using new technology like robotics, artificial intelligence should be taken. This can increase the profitability of the sector. Real time weather forecast and timely information availability should be provided. The recommendations of GVK Rao Committee on agricultural modernisation and Arvind Subramanian Committee on Pulses should be implemented to bring a balance between cereal and non-cereal

Crops which will enable India achieve nutrition security as well.

The Government should rationalise MSP and should start it on various non-cereal crops as well. Adequate

attention needs to be put on Organic farming which has huge global market. The farmers have to be

adequately trained for the same. The Govt. should allow contract

farming gradually to increase foreign investment in the sector. The recommendations of MS Swaminathan

Committee on agriculture pricing should be implemented. The recent initiatives like 'Farmers Zone' and

'E-National Agriculture Market' should be implemented in its full letter and spirit to make the

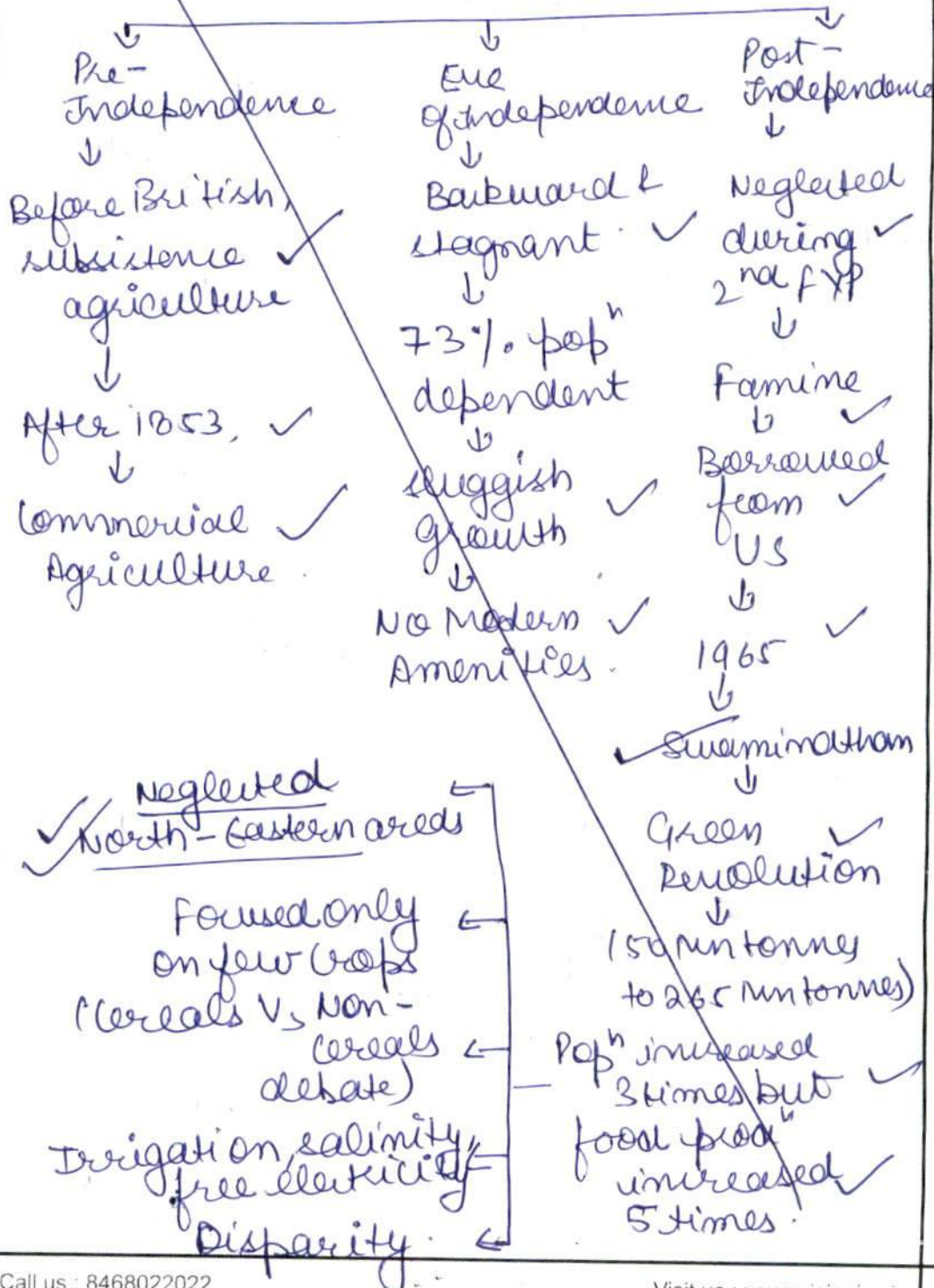
agriculture, a SMART AGRICULTURE and achieving Lal Bahadur

Shastri's dream of 'Jai Saman, Jai Kisan'.

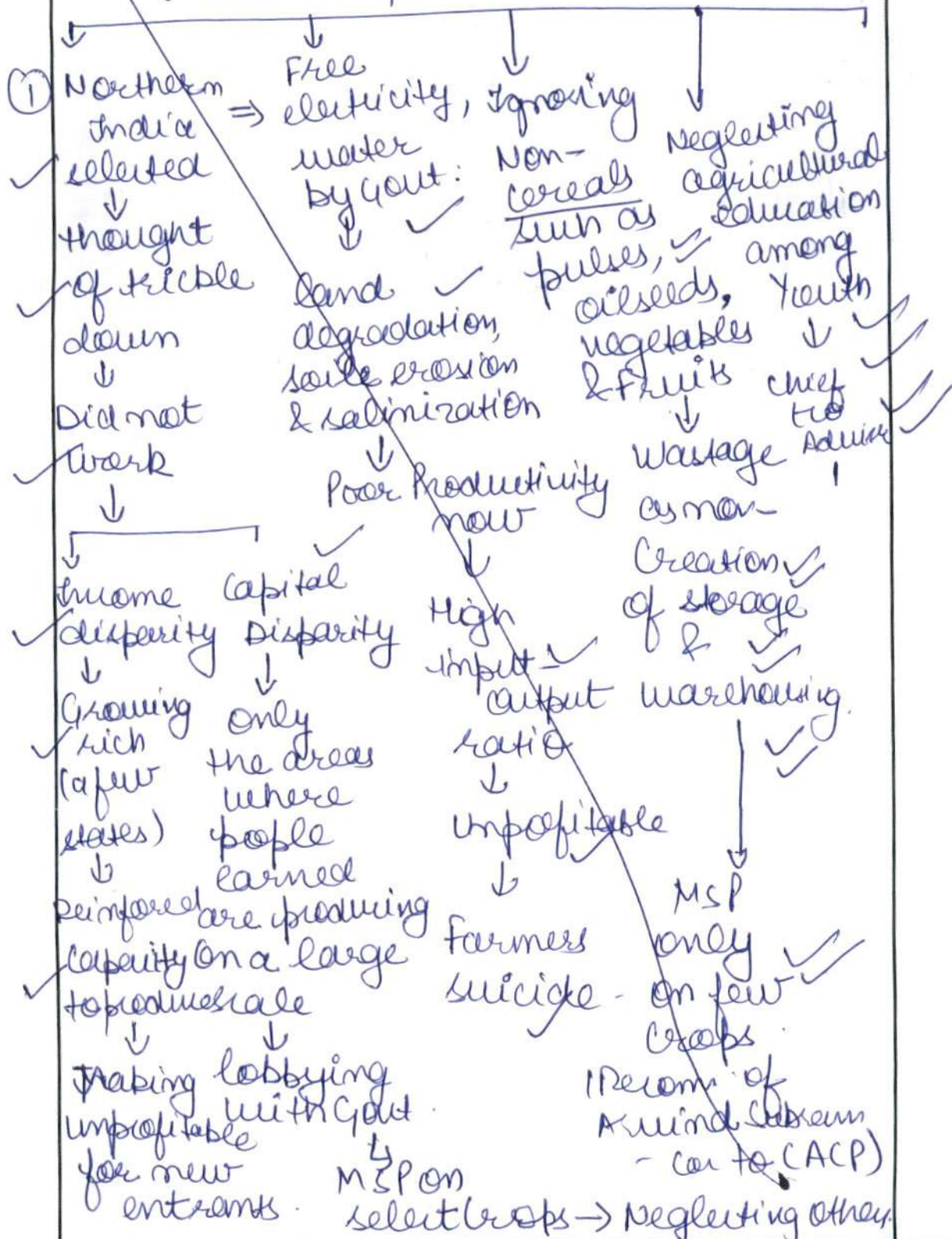
Rough Structure:

Para 1:

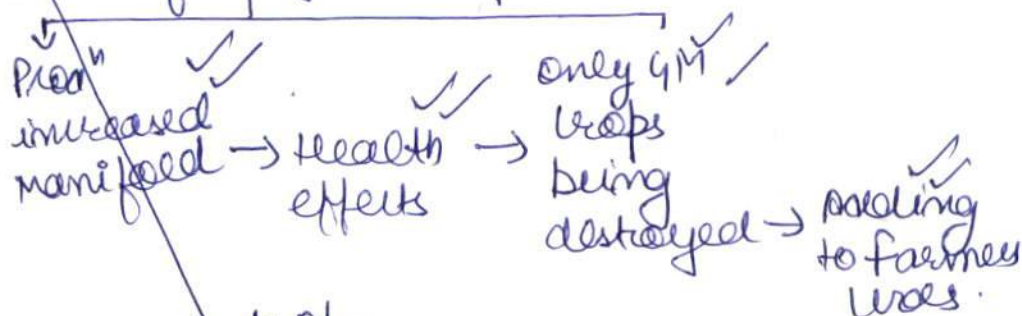
Indian economy → Agrarian Economy



Success of Green revolution is haunting the future progress of Agriculture. [15 Points].



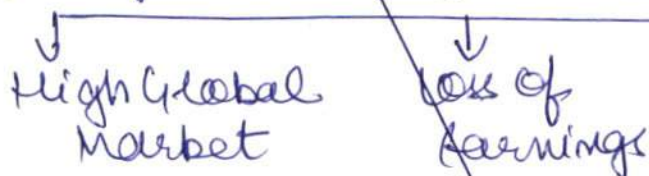
5) Use of transgenic crops.



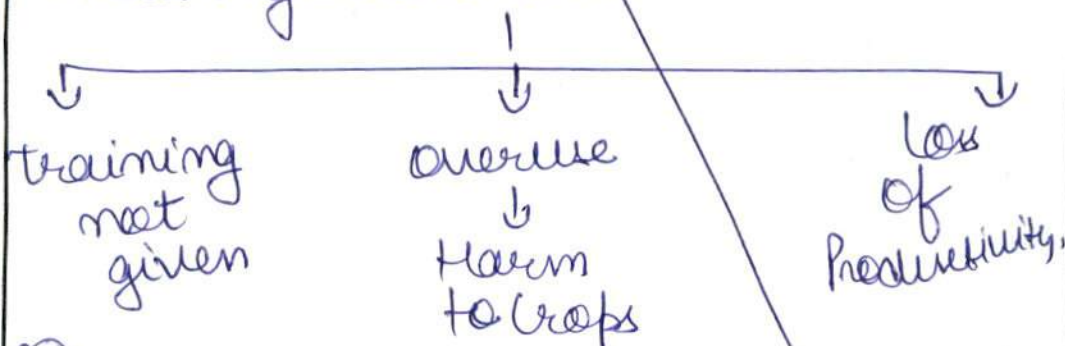
6) Neglect of development of proper food processing industries ✓

7) Achieved food security but not nutrition security.

8) Ignored organic farming ✓



9) Gave them the tools without teaching about how to use them ✓



10) Production has increased but productivity is suffering now. ✓

Rough work:

Defence expenditure: A necessity.

If we do not guard our home, it will be either taken over or destroyed by others.



- Nuclear weapons & missile ✓
↳ Credible minimum deterrence.
- ✓ changing geopolitical scenario,
changing interests.
- ✓ state funding by other nations.
- ✓ Assertive china, militarist Pakistan.
- Our security & allies -
- To maintain the Policy as well,
it is needed → Afghanistan,
✓ Syria & Iraq. ✓
- ✓ Afghanistan → US Support ✓
- UN Peacekeeping forces
- Present scenario: Radicalisation,
✓ terrorism, insurgency.
- North Korea → Nuclear weapons & test.
- Unequal Power Balance in world.
- Other side: Mahatma Gandhi → struggle
in South Africa → Non-Violence.
Indian Independence Movement →
largely Non-Violent.

- Bofors Scandal ✓
- Augusta Westland ✓ Defence Choppers.
-

(B)

Defence Expenditure : Necessity or Extravagance

Defence refers to the activities under-taken to protect one's own interest. It is believed that prevention is better than cure. If we do not guard our house then either it will be destroyed by someone or shall be taken over by other.

The history proves it that the defence expenditure is a necessity and the one who does not undertake it has to suffer reverses. Dating back to the time of voyages of discovery and colonialism, defence expenditure has proven its inevitability. The nations which had a well developed navy like Portuguese, Spain etc. were able to capture and secure the trading interests with the Asian economies. Similarly, when the British developed superiority in

its defence, it gradually took over virtually all the territories held earlier by Portuguese & Spain in Asia.

The continents of Africa and Asia were colonised as they did not have means to protect themselves.

The rulers of Africa used to buy weapons from Europeans in exchange

of slaves (subjects of their territory) as they would not develop it themselves.

This became the starting point of their centuries long subjugation. Similarly, in the Asian continent, the militarily strong nation Japan was able to

Capture even Russia (1804-1806 wars).

Similarly, in the Battle of Plassey and Battle of Buxar, the Indian rulers

were unable to defend themselves

against the modern artillery and weapons of the British. This led to

the 200 year saga of Indian colonisation. This reinforces the fact that

a strong polity has to be guarded by an equally strong military.

In 1857 Revolt, Our heroes were crushed as they could not stand before the might of British. They were mere soldiers in uniform with weapons which were traditional as compared to British who had modern warfare equipments. Even the Quit India Movement was violent in nature in which the rivals of World War-II ~~supplied~~ provided support ultimately leading to Indian Independence.

Just 15 years after Independence, the need of a modern, hi-tech and fully developed defense was recognised when India suffered reverses in the Sino-Indian War of 1962. This was an eye opener for the Indian policy makers who focused their attention on this crucial sector. The results of this war ~~for~~ were very much visible when the tricolour Indian flag flew high in the victory.

in Indo-Pak war of 1965. Similarly in the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971, the Indian Government supported the Bangladeshi Mukti Bahini. It provided them with training, arms support and troops support. This led to the creation of a new Nation on the world map i.e. Bangladesh despite full efforts by the Pakistani Army to resist the same. In (1999) Kargil War, the Indian Government was able to prevent its sovereignty due to the exemplary work done by the Indian Armed forces. The above incidences reinforce the fact that defence expenditure is indeed a necessity.

In the present scenario, the same has assumed much more importance due to the development of technology, proxy wars being waged by other Nations, insurgency; threat of nuclear weapons, chemical weapons etc.

At the Global level, the significance of defence expenditure can be seen from the situations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. The nation of Afghanistan is in almost ruins and the citizens in a pitiable conditions. The Afghan Government is unable to fight the Afghan Taliban by itself as it does not have the armed might & capability to do so. In 2013-14, when the US Army withdrew its troops to a large extent and left it to the National Unity Government of Afghanistan to defend themselves, they were unable to do so and it created a security issue for the entire world. Consequently, the US Army had to resend its troops to prevent the nation from falling apart. Similarly, the World Heritage cities of Syria and Iraq were destroyed by ISIS as the Nation's government was unable to fight with them with its own defense

forces. However, with the support of world community to their defense forces, the ISIS are suffering serious reverses. Hence, to maintain the sovereignty, defense has to be utterly strong.

In the post-cold war world, many nations are having nuclear weapons. This creates a situation of global power imbalance. Most of the nations had started the out of threatening others under the garb of such nuclear weapons. However, when India created its nuclear weapon with the aim to achieve minimum credible deterrence, such threats have not been directed towards her.

National Scenario

In the changing geopolitical scenario, India has to steer amidst an assertive China, offensive Pakistan and emerging South Asia. It has

to ensure that its own security and interests are duly protected. Therefore, it become utmost important to protect itself and strategically develop its defense sector.

Presently, the threats of terrorism such as Pathankot Airbase attacks are increasing. Nations like China and Pakistan are engaging in proxy wars against India. The same has been seen in the form of monetary support, arms support to these radical and terror elements. They are being provided training by the armies of these nations. Similarly, the acts of insurgency by organisations like NSCN-IM, ULFA, NDFB, etc. are posing a greater threat to the nation. The recent killing of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen leader Burhan Wani and the consequent acts of destabilisation in Jammu and Kashmir by various

militants receiving state funding from other nations reinforces the need of defence expenditure.

India contributes 2nd largest force to UN Peacekeeping mission. This also enhances India's global image and enables it to secure its interest. In the 21st century, the global interests are changing. To protect one's own interest and sovereignty, defence expenditure assumes importance. The recent initiatives of China Pakistan Economic Corridor; China's string of Pearls theory; nuclear test by North Korean Premier Kim Jong Un etc. necessitates to build a modern, pro-active defence infrastructure.

However, there is other aspect to this as well. As seen in the recent past, defence ~~has~~ is becoming more of an extraversion activity. Post the Cold War, the US and Russia are but into an arms race with neither yielding nothing for both of

them. Rather, it has become more of a commercial thing, wherein these Nation are earning millions of rupees by supplying weapons to other Nations. The defense expenditure is becoming a weapon to threaten others. Moreover, it has also been seen that the defense expenditure is excessively being promoted to serve vested interests as well as seen in Bofors scandal, Augusta Westland deal etc.

From the above arguments, it can well be concluded that in the dynamic world of 21st century, Defense expenditure is a necessity but the same has to be dealt with extreme caution. ~~But~~ The resort to weapons should be the last one. The aim of ~~our~~^{Indian} Nation should be to avoid violence as propounded by Mahatma Gandhi. However, at the same time, we should be

prepared to face any challenge/ threat to our security and sovereignty. As seen in the CAG Reports, we are a step behind what should our defense expenditure actually be. We need to spend on modernisation and upgrading our defense as pointed by Rama Rao Committee and Shekatkar Committee on defense (Jan 2017). Efforts should be made to develop them indigenously as it will make us self-reliant in true sense. Proper measures should be taken to provide adequate checks and balances to reduce and eliminate corruption from defense deals. The ambivalence towards private sector should be reduced by updating the defense procurement procedure. A step in this direction has already been taken as seen in Reliance defense JV.

In the end, we should remember the philosophy of Vasudena kutumbhakam and try to solve any problem with non-violence to the extent possible.