

ECONOMIC

&

SOCIAL ISSUES

INDIA & INTERNATIONAL

FOR
RBI, NABARD
and
OTHER COMPETITIVE EXAMS.

Ishwar C. Dhingra

CONTEMPORARY

Social and Economic Issues

(International & India)

Highly Recommended for
High-grade Competitive
Examinations

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PREFACE

MCQs are increasingly becoming the mode of examining students' intellect and caliber for direct entry to senior level positions in the Government of India and its various organisations, like the RBI, SBI, NABARD and others. From the host point of view this is an easy and effective, also transparent method. It involves little or no human intervention. Students' rankings are automatically generated; if there is any default, it gets immediately rectified.

But, there is another side of the story. It generates a sense of over-confidence. MCQ based-testing is not as easy as it sounds. It actually calls for year total ability and skills to score good in any highly competitive examination. With the threat of negative marking hanging over neck, one cannot take the easy route.

What MCQs require is a good background of the subject. One needs to be crystal clear about the subject being studied. This is our humble contribution to your effort to score high ranks in the examination, you may be preparing for. We have, here, included contemporary international and national issues confronting us as a nation. The narration is comprehensive and concise. An exhaustive list of MCQs has been appended at the end.

You can always share your problems with Bookhive Study Circle, Gurgaon.

Author

THE CRISIS OF CIVILISATION

We have bigger houses but smaller families;
more conveniences, but less time.

We have more degrees but less sense;
more knowledge but less judgment;
more experts, but more problems;
more medicines but less healthiness.

We've been all the way to the moon and back,
but have trouble in crossing the street to meet our new neighbor.

We built more computers to hold more copies than ever,
But have less real communication;
We have become long on quantity, but short on quality.

These are times of fast foods but slow digestion;
Tall men but short characters;
Steep profits but shallow relationships.

It's a time when there is much in the window
But nothing in the room.

—Unanimous

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NATURE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

1. 70 OR 17!

We are beginning our narration with a question mark! The kid has come out of his nappies, has been through the age when he was wearing shorts and is now smartly-dressed in jeans. He has gained his stature and has matured enough to mark his own path. He is exposed to his immediate family of grand-parents, parents and siblings. He has to learn manners to behave and interact with other related families, as also non-related families. He has to find and establish new equations with friends and non-friends, acquaintances and non-acquaintances and, in the modern age of internet, social media entities who exist only in digital form. He has to compete with others as also to cooperate with others as he attains the age of maturity. He has his own ambitions and aspirations. He can stand together with others, he may also be knocked out.

Let us substitute this person by the country 'India', which celebrated its 70th independence day in year 2016. The situation in 2016 of 70 years old independent India looks more like that of a teen-ager who has switched from shorts to jeans, and is well-poised to attain maturity.

We have covered a long distance.

India's break from colonial embrace in 1947 took place in very difficult circumstances. Not only was the world economy reeling in the aftermath of the destructive fallout of World War II, but the departing British were bequeathing an economy which had been put through the colonial rigour for 200 years—barring the railway network and the

2 Social and Economic Issues

educational institutions, there was precious little independent India could look forward to. In addition, the country was overwhelmed by communal carnage, which left hundreds of thousands dead on either side of the border. Worse, it etched the contours of a permanent foreign policy challenge: Pakistan (which, too, celebrated its 70th Independence Day on Sunday, 14 August, 2016).

While the first three decades were spent creating an economic autarky, the next four—accelerating from 1991—were devoted to integrating India into the global economy and gradually shedding its defensive foreign policy postures (an example of which is the dramatic rethink towards the US undertaken by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in his tenure beginning 1999).

Remarkable while the journey has been so far, it is what India rustles up in the next 70 years that we need to ponder. Broadly, if India can get the following 5Ds (keeping with the predilections of the Modi administration) right, it would have secured the legacy of the country and realised the promise and potential our founding fathers saw for independent India.

1. Democracy

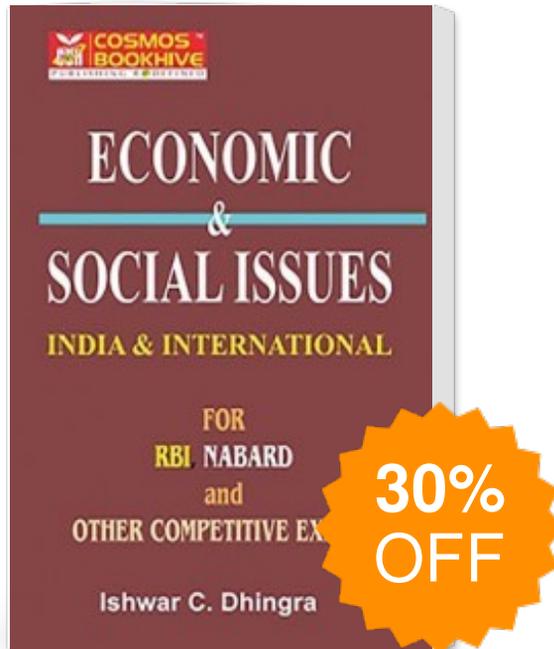
Indian democracy has to evolve into one which embraces and respects the rule of law; the notion of an exceptions-based regime has to be abandoned immediately. The transition to a Goods and Services Tax and the use of Aadhaar (India's unique identity project) to distribute services are definitive steps in this direction. More importantly its institutions, including the judiciary, media, government and Parliament, too have to evolve. At the moment they are struggling to cope with the growing and variegated demands of a rapidly transforming country.

2. Demography

Currently, India is in a sweet spot with 65% of its population younger than 35 years of age and hence in their prime—a perfect complement to its economy. But in a few decades there will be a shift and the country's demographic bulge will be towards older people—the young of today's India will grow old together.

Public policy will have to prepare the country to deal with this shift, especially since we notice the growing prevalence of lifestyle-related diseases. At present, leave alone planning, One

Economic And Social Issues India And International



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