

**GENERAL ENGLISH**

*Time Allowed : Three Hours*

*Maximum Marks : 100*

**INSTRUCTIONS**

*Candidates should attempt ALL questions unless otherwise directed.*

*The number of marks carried by each question is indicated at the end of the question.*

*Answers must be written only in ENGLISH.*

*Candidates are requested to write clear, legible and concise answers and to adhere to word limits wherever indicated. Failure to adhere to word limits will be penalized.*

*Précis question must be attempted only on the special précis sheet(s) provided. These précis sheets must be attached securely to the answer book by the candidate.*

*Whenever a question is being attempted, all its parts/sub-parts must be completed before moving on to the next question.*

1. Write an essay on any **one** of the following topics in about 1000 words :

30

- (a) Significance of education in women's empowerment
- (b) Medical/Health Tourism : Making India a favourite destination
- (c) Social Responsibilities of Corporate Groups
- (d) Picnic in Space : A future possibility or mere utopia ?

2. Make a précis of each of the following two passages in about one-third of the original length, using your own words. State the number of words used and suggest a suitable title to each. (*Note : The précis must be written only on the special sheets provided for the purpose, writing one word in each block. The sheets should be fastened securely inside the answer-book*).

20+10=30

- (a) Article 13(2) of the UN Declaration of Human Rights states that "everyone has the right to leave any country". There is, however, no consequential right to enter another country. This right gets vested in the nation-state, which adopts rules and regulations to regulate entry of persons. The governments use the instrumentality of visa to achieve this objective.

Visa has, therefore, become an important tool in achieving national objectives by all the governments. It is the same when the British Prime Minister wants to attract the best and the brightest from the world, including India, or opts

for stringent visa conditions for the stay of international students from non-EU countries under domestic pressure, even though it weakens the links with the Commonwealth countries. It is the same when Malaysia adopts an "off and on" policy on granting visas to Indians on arrival, or India adopts a similar visa facility for a select group of countries. In diplomatic parlance, it is categorised as visa diplomacy.

Signing of the India – Pakistan Visa Agreement in September, replacing the 1974 Visa Agreement, falls in the armoury of visa diplomacy. The agreement was signed by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries and not by the Home Secretaries, even though all the contours had been finalised. This was to convey a diplomatic signal on the desire to improve bilateral relations. It is a forward movement as it liberalises the existing visa regime, as it existed under the 1974 Visa Agreement. Primarily, its focus was on overall liberalisation on the visa conditions for travel between the two countries.

The main thrust is two-pronged. Firstly, to facilitate easy travel by all and, secondly, to facilitate travel by the business community and catering to their needs in keeping with the increase in bilateral trade. Three major changes were made in the visitor visa category, which include increasing the duration of validity of visa from three months to six months and allowing

visits to five places, instead of three, as in the past.

Another change was to provide flexibility on the points of arrival and departure and mode of travel, as hitherto the visitors had to enter and leave from the same point. Special provisions have been made for senior citizens above 65 years of age; they can be issued visa valid for two years with multiple entries and the same would be applicable to spouses belonging to the other nationality. In addition, senior citizens would also be accorded the facility of visa on arrival at the Attari-Wagah border, limited to 45 days.

A significant feature of the new visa policy is the creation of a separate category of business visa. Two categories of businessmen's visa are created, linked to the standing of the business in terms of income and turnover. Businessmen having an annual turnover of Pakistani rupees 30 million or income of Pakistani rupees 5 million would be granted one-year multiple entry visa valid for 10 places. In other cases, those with an income of Pakistani rupees half a million or turnover of Pakistani rupees three million would be given one-year visa, with four entries to five places. This meets the long-pending demand for multiple-entry visas for a longer duration.

Another new visa category was also introduced such as group tourist visa for 30 days for groups between 10 – 50 persons, organised by approved tour operators. These facilities would also be

available to students of educational institutions. Both governments agreed to exchange details on tourist destinations and recognised tour operators. Another interesting feature was the fixing of the time limit for the processing of visa applications: 30 days for diplomatic visas, 45 days for non-diplomatic visas and 35 days for business visas.

Visa liberalisation has been hailed as a major step as it is expected to bring about greater connectivity at the people-to-people level and help in further building commercial linkages, as the bilateral trade is expected to increase from the current level of \$ 2.5 billion to \$ 10 billion in a couple of years. It looks big optically, seen in the India-Pakistan context, although it is a small step and many more such steps are needed.

- (b) Average life expectancy in India jumped up by 4.6 years in the decade up to 2008, according to the latest data released by the Registrar General of India. Since this was also the period when economic reforms had the maximum impact, it gives the lie to an idea that's caught the fancy in public discourse — that reforms benefited only a tiny elite, leaving the rest of India's population untouched (or even worse off than before, going by some versions). The steady improvements in life expectancy at birth of the average Indian to 66.1 years by 2008 highlights steady improvement in overall living conditions and the general success of reforms.

What makes these gains more impressive are their inclusive character, with women and the rural population making more substantial gains. While women's life expectancy improved faster to 67.7 years, that of men rose more slowly to 64.6 years. This is especially significant given that life expectancy of women had lagged that of men till the early 1980s. While the overall gains indicate access to more nutritious food and health care and better hygiene, the larger improvements in the life expectancy of women indicate a faster dip in the mortality rates of the girl child. Similarly, greater life expectancy gains in the rural sector show that the benefits of higher growth were not restricted to urban areas, as many choose to believe.

It is of course necessary that the government design policies which make the benefits of reform percolate faster and deeper. The focus has to be on easing the ways of doing business and pushing up investments to enable growth to pick up. Only a substantial enlargement of the manufacturing sector base, by ushering in more flexible labour regulations and improving the supply of a skilled and trained workforce, land and quality infrastructure, can provide employment to the millions who join the workforce each year. The solution, therefore, is more reforms, not less. But the big question remains – will the direction and pace of the reforms have broad public acceptance ?

3. Write a single paragraph in about 200 words on any **one** of the following phrases/expressions : 10

- (a) Prosperity makes friends, adversity tries them
- (b) Small is beautiful
- (c) Child is the father of Man
- (d) When you smile, the world smiles with you; when you weep, you weep alone

4. Use the following words in sentences so as to bring out their meaning clearly. Do not change the form of the word. No credit will be given for a vague or ambiguous sentence :  $2 \times 5 = 10$

- (a) conscientious
- (b) deleterious
- (c) nebulous
- (d) perseverance
- (e) wistful

5. Make the directed changes in the following sentences without changing their meaning :  $2 \times 5 = 10$

- (a) Roma (write) letters when she (hear) a noise outside. (Rewrite the sentence using the correct form of the verbs in brackets).
- (b) It is necessary for you to submit the application today. (Rewrite the sentence using an appropriate modal auxiliary)
- (c) India has won the cricket match. It is a great news. (Combine the two sentences starting with 'That')

- (d) He said to me, "When are you leaving for Mumbai ? I want to give you a small packet for my son." (Change the narration)
- (e) Someone has already paid the plumber his daily wages. (Change the voice)

6. Correct the following sentences without changing their meaning. Please do not make unnecessary changes in the original sentences :  $1 \times 10 = 10$

- (a) I never remember to have met you anywhere.
- (b) He went to the Railway Station with a view to receive the guests.
- (c) No sooner had he started writing the letter when he discovered that he forgot his spectacles at home.
- (d) Neither the manager nor the secretary are present in the office.
- (e) He asked Ram why your father had lost his temper.
- (f) The fireman could not succeed to rescue the child although he could put out the fire.
- (g) The doctor told his patient that he will start the treatment only if he pays his fee.
- (h) Ram is the tallest of all the other boys in the class.
- (i) You don't want to marry her, isn't it ?
- (j) Man and woman are waiting for you outside.