



## POLICY STUDIES

PhD Entrance Examination, May 2016  
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

Total Marks: 100  
Date: 19 May 2016

Duration:  
Venue: LHC

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**Please answer one of the two questions below.**

### Question 1

Read the excerpt provided below before you answer this Question

“In a scathing 53-page verdict on the “lack of will” shown by the Centre and States in combating drought and saving lives, the Supreme Court on Wednesday pronounced the Centre guilty of “washing its hands of” a national disaster that consumed one-fourth of the country. It also pulled up Gujarat, Bihar and Haryana for adopting an “ostrich-like attitude” towards declaring drought and driving their own people to suicide, starvation and mass migration. The court asked the government to: establish a National Disaster Response Force with specialist cadre in six months; set up a Disaster Mitigation Fund within three months; frame National Plan on risk assessment, risk management and crisis management in respect of a disaster; and update 60-year-old Drought Management Manual keeping in mind “humanitarian factors” like migrations, suicides, extreme distress, the plight of women and children.”

Source: “SC pulls up Centre, States for failing to tackle drought”, The Hindu, May 11, 2016

Drought is often looked upon as an aberration, a departure from the norm. It is treated as a short term crisis that will get resolved once the monsoons commence, as seen by the various measures to tackle drought listed in the above article. Do you agree with this assessment? If yes, explain why? If not, explain how should the phenomenon of drought be understood by policy-makers?

### Question 2

Explain the challenges regulators face in responding to the competing visions about human development and environmental protection processes: elucidate on the various prominent notions about human development and of the environment, describe the major regulatory processes through which concerns about environmental protection and human development are sought to be mediated in India, and elaborate on the strengths and lacunae you see in these measures.