1. Describe Indian view on Human Development.

**Ans:** The redefining of the goals of development of human society by bringing in human capabilities at the centre is a major shift from the traditional welfare economics that conflate human welfare with either opulence or utility. Conceiving rational behaviour as something governed by the unilateral purpose of utility maximization fails to capture the more direct human desires of agency and freedom. Human capabilities are in any case not independent of income growth; nevertheless countries differ in terms of human development although having similar levels of per capita income. Human development has been defined as enlarging people’s choices in a way which enables them to lead longer, healthier and fuller lives. But enlarging choices involves a complex process ranging from increased provisioning of inputs to the more diffused issues related to the institutional arrangements that are supposed to translate the inputs into real available choices. However a wide range of empirical studies have underlined the close association of higher levels of human capabilities to indicators related to health and education entitlements. This undoubtedly constricts the notion of human development but provides an entry point for both assessing the primary status of human capabilities and hence the required levels of policy interventions.

India experienced more or less high average growth in per capita income in the past two decades and that perhaps glossed over its slow progress in human development. Moreover with increased commercialization of health and education inputs, in other words with more market instruments put in place as a result of reforms, it is likely that different regions, rural and urban or various states converge in terms of their achievements in income and human development. There has to be human development goals put in the policy agenda at the first place instead of waiting for a later stage until a certain level of growth being achieved. This notion is perhaps instructive of the fact that human development outcomes are not independent of the growth process, in the sense, the nature of growth with a given level of income might lead to differing human development outcomes and hence the ‘process’ matters not only the outcomes in growth. The growth process that does not necessarily give rise to higher employment and especially rural incomes, output compositions that are not conducive to redistribution and heavily depend on profit inflation are likely to be detrimental to human development. And deprivations in that case are not only manifested across incomes but also across regions.

2. Define development. Delineate various characteristics of development.

**Ans:** Development is the act or process of growing or causing something to grow or become larger or more advanced. The following are the important characteristics of development:

1. Development is a continuous process
   - The process of growth and development continues from the moment of conception until the individual reaches maturity. It takes place at a slow but regular pace rather than by leaps and bounds.
2. Development follows a pattern
   - Development occurs in an orderly manner and follows a certain sequence. Thus, infancy, early childhood, later childhood, adolescence and maturity is the sequence of development in the human beings.
3. Development proceeds from general to specific responses.
   - The responses or the reactions of a child are of general nature to start with. He reacts to the situations and external stimuli with the whole of his body.
4. Different aspects of growth develop at different rates
   - Though development is a continuous process, yet the rate of growth is not uniform. Thus, there are periods of accelerated growth and pej decelerated growth.
5. Most traits are correlated in development
   - Generally, it has been observed that the child, whose intellectual development is above average, is also superior in so many other aspects, e.g. health, sociability and special aptitudes. Similarly, this mental development is intimately related to his physical growth.
6. Development is a product of interaction of the organism and environment.
   - Neither heredity alone, nor the mere environment possible for the development of an individual. Both are responsible for human growth and development though, it is not possible to indicate exactly in what proportion heredity and environment contribute to the development of an individual.
7. There are wide individual differences in growth pattern
   - Individuals differ from other in their pattern and rate of growth. There is defining evidence to show that differences in physical structure are less marked than the differences in intellectual capacity. Similarly, it has been found out that personality differences are far more marked either physical or intellectual differences. The individual references are caused by differences in hereditary endowment and environment influences.
8. Growth is both quantitative and qualitative
   - As the child grows physically, he also develops regarding the qualitative aspects of his personality. That means, as the child grows in age, his mental and emotional functions also develop.
9. Development is predictable
   - The rate of development of each child is fairly constant, that is, a slow learner will ever remain so, and a superior child is so from the very beginning. Thus, it is possible to predict at an early age the range within which the mature development of the child is likely to fall; though the prediction cannot be made accurately.
10. Development is affected by many factors