Human Genome Significance

1. Why is sequencing the human genome considered such an important and historic event especially when it is not impacting the mainstream society in a big way right now?

2. How does genetic information impact society. Does it going to impact the basic problems of poverty, employment, prevention of disease in a big way. Do you think India should concentrate more on other pressing needs like poverty, food security and education, rather than investing on a project which requires huge funding?

3. What are the negative and positive implications arising out of HGP for India, Do you think India can contribute in a unique way to this research due to its genetic diversity and social structure.

4. How do we as a society balance current scientific limitations and social risk with long-term benefits?

Human Genome: Ethical and Social Issues

1. Define the social questions raised by the human genome project.
   E.g. it may increase the divide the gap between the rich and the poor since only rich will have the access to this state of the art technology

2. what effect Human Genome information will have on minorities and disabled people also can we expect that HGP will have an huge impact on the race and caste system especially in India

3. How Genetic engineering will change us in the next century. Like how do you fancy society and the world in next century when
genetic technology will be flourishing as IT does today? Will it destroy or give an impetus to the destruction of Genetic Diversity.

4. Consider the ramifications of being able to genetically modify our offspring. Does it mean that we are playing with nature and trying to control the reproductive principles of nature?

5. How does personal genetic information affect an individual and society's perceptions of that individual? Like the concept of disability, normalcy etc.

**Human Genome: Genetic Testing**

1. Clarify the benefits, risks and issues (personal, social or legal) of genetic testing. Like should testing be performed when no treatment is available? And how do we prepare the public to make informed choices?

2. How do we prepare healthcare professionals for the new genetic testing? How will genetic tests be evaluated and regulated for accuracy, reliability, and utility? What is the international and national standard on this?

3. Comment on the ethical dilemma faced by health care professionals regarding genetic testing. Like the principles of confidentiality and privacy. Do you consider genetic information to be individual or familial?

4. Examine forces that drive the economics of genetic testing including social values, use of unproven scientific theories and increased consumer demand.

**Human Genome: Genetic Determinism**

1. Human Genome Project has recreated the scientific fascination to relate everything to genes. Do you think people's genes make them behave in a particular way? Do you think such a one sided
emphasize will divert our attention from the social and environmental influence which effect the overall personality of a human being.

**Human Genome: Criminal Law**

1. What impact the genetic revolution will have on the traditional criminal Law. Do you foresee a flood of scientific evidence in trials? Do you think the genetic information which links genes and behaviour will challenge the concept of Mens Rea and effect Sentencing Rule?
2. Do you think India’s Judiciary and legislative structure is equipped to deal with this situation?
3. What are the social and legal implications of DNA databases? Will it lead to prevention of crime and reduce the cost and time of Investigation? Or will it lead to overdependence on technology besides raising concerns of privacy and discrimination.

**Human Genome: Genetic Discrimination**

1. Consider the long term implications of permitting access to personal genetic information by social agents like employers, Insurance sector, immigration officials etc. Through various conventions our effort was to eradicate discrimination Will it lead to a new form discrimination?

**Human Genome: Patents**

2. Do you think ownership rights should be granted to genes in the form of patents especially when it is declared to be the common heritage of humanity? What effects will it have on current research efforts? Will patenting DNA sequences limit their accessibility and development into useful products?
3. Do you think Patenting of genes is ethically wrong as against the principles of unjust enrichment? How do we justify patent for e.g. when a patent is developed out of tribal DNA and how do we balance their interests. Do you think patenting will lead to a new form of Bio piracy

**Human Genome: Legislative framework**

1. In response to the HGP, United Nations made a declaration on Human Genome and Human Rights which laid down certain principles. Do you think this mechanism is equipped to deal with the legal and social issues arising out of HGP? Analyze the challenges to implementation of Human Right at International Level

2. What are the legislative and legal steps India can take to take the benefit of HGP given the fact that India does not have a single policy or legislation on HG. The only guidelines existing today is laid down by ICMR what are the drawbacks of this guidelines

3. Do you think our existing constitutional provisions are capable of dealing with issues like genetic discrimination, genetic privacy etc. If not how can we make amendments in this regard.

4. Do you think the need of the hour is to have an integrated approach. Do you support the proposition that it will be better for the international community to adopt a framework in the form of Law of sea convention . comment on the pros and cons of such an approach.