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04 AUG 2023 NO
03

GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2415)

Name of Candidate	MEDHA ANAND		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	105670
Center	DELHI	Date	4.08.23

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
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6	10	
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9	10	
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11	15	
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15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **HINDI & ENGLISH** इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi- 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

1. भारत में राज्यों की राजकोषीय स्थिरता से संबंधित मौजूदा मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए। इन मुद्दों के समाधान हेतु किन उपायों की आवश्यकता है?

Examine the persisting issues related to fiscal stability of states in India.
What measures are needed to address these issues? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Fiscal stability of states under Indian federalism is contingent upon centre, which ensures states fiscal standards.

Persisting issues in fiscal stability of states:

- (1) Loss of Revenue due to GST to producing states during COVID. A shortfall of ₹2.5mn
- (2) Inability to borrow from outside, if they have outstanding loan to centre
- (3) Skewed tax devolution Ex- Cess and surcharge don't go into state's kitty
- (4) Issues with Finance Commission recommend - Don't give due attention to state's specific requirement. Ex - removal of special category state's fund.
- (5) Tied funds lead to reduced discretionary power of states in executing schemes.
- (6) Execution lies with state but most often they lack the resources.

- (6) States are not allowed to issue T-bills
- (7) Lack of municipal bonds popularity within states.
- (8) Asymmetric Taxation in seventh schedule

Measures to address this issue'

- (1) Paradiplomacy should include state taking direct funds from abroad
- (2) Deeper penetration of municipal bonds and allowing State Masala bonds
- (3) Enhance untied funds in central sector scheme.
- (4) Consolidated funds of state should have guarantee of CFI → will enhance trust on state.
- (5) Fiscal Council of India should be established to devolve funds.
- (6) GST should adequately compensate producer states (as it is a consumption based tax).

Thus, to ensure state's fiscal viability N. K. Singh Committee's recommendation to enhance their spending limits should be executed

2. हालांकि रुपये के अंतर्राष्ट्रीयकरण के अनेक लाभ हैं, लेकिन यह जोखिम रहित भी नहीं है। व्याख्या कीजिए।

The internationalisation of rupee has many advantages, yet it is not devoid of risks. Explain. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Internationalisation of rupee implies use of rupee in external trade by large number of countries to exchange goods and services.

It comes with its own sets of advantages and challenges

- ADVANTAGE
- Reduced currency exchange risks
 - ensure higher trade
 - penetrate into countries embargoed by USA. Ex- Iran, Russia trade
 - Enhance Developmental Gains
 - Portray India as a World leader "Jagat Guni"
 - reduce trade deficit due to enhanced trade
 - more employment opportunities as trade will become "export led"
 - crucial to transform India into a 5 trillion economy

- Issues with rupee interest
- External shocks will have deeper impacts on India
 - Enhanced chances of "fly by money"
 - require reforms like full capital account convertibility
 - face the trilemma of "Exchange Rate Stability, Capital ac. conv." and independent monetary policy"
 - will reduce RBI's capacity to manage inflation (Demand-supply)
 - might require de-dollarisation (will have its own ramifications)

- Way forward
- limit capital account convertibility
 - currency swap agreements based on clearly laid rules
 - Full Capital account convertibility only when 4 conditions of N.K. Singh committee are met

With coming up of Nostro, Vostro account, currency swaps etc. internationalisation of rupee has gained pace but adequate safeguards should be placed for domestic economy

3. भारत में विभिन्न विकास पहलों की लेखापरीक्षा रिपोर्टों में बार-बार सार्वजनिक व्यय से संबंधी अक्षमताओं को उजागर किया गया है। इन अक्षमताओं की पहचान करते हुए, इनके समाधान हेतु अपनाए जाने वाले उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

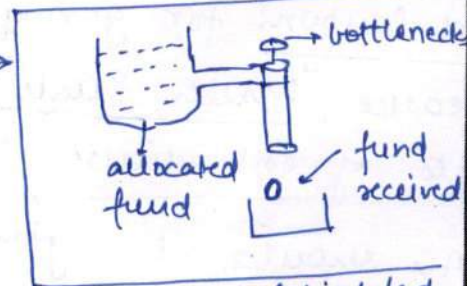
Audit reports on various development initiatives in India have frequently highlighted inefficiencies in public expenditure. Identify these inefficiencies and suggest measures that can be taken to address them. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Audit reports act as financial report card of various schemes highlighting many schemes' achievements and also their failures. Ex - 2G Scam was highlighted by CAG report.

Inefficiencies highlighted by audit reports -

- (1) Unused funds - around 60% of Nishchay fund was lying unused in 2020-21.

- (2) Leakage of funds - often funds get transferred to "ghost beneficiaries".



Ex - adhar - Ration card link highlighted 3.5 mn bogus beneficiaries of PDS.

- (3) Quality of Material - often highest quality material roads break after first rains ⇒ diversion of funds in corruption

- (4) Farm waivers are often targeted to rich farmers. Poor farmers don't get the requisite help (85% marginal farmers in India)
- (5) Interest loan subvention schemes are utilised by richer strata. Ex 45% farmers still dependent on informal lenders.
- (6) In schemes like PM Awas Yojana, bogus beneficiaries are allotted flats.
- (7) Urea that is subsidised used to get channeled to industries.

Measures

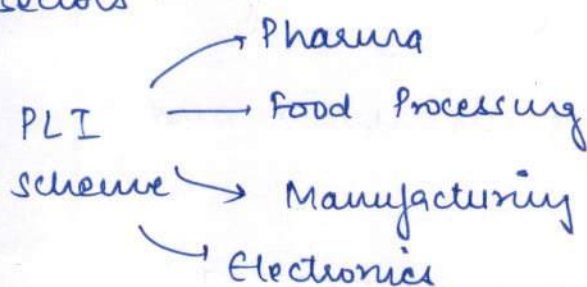
- ① Direct Benefit Transfer - resulted in saving of 165 mn since inception
- ② Neem coated Urea in agriculture, Food Coupons for giving food subsidy
- ③ Reduce "March Rush", give bimonthly targets of expenditure
- ④ CAG should be given powers to allow passing funds for scheme.
- ⑤ 3rd party audit of schemes enhanced.

Thus, to ensure sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas and sabka Vishwas, developmental deficit should be reduced by efficient targeting of schemes.

4. उत्पादन से संबद्ध प्रोत्साहन (PLI) योजना आत्मनिर्भर भारत के लक्ष्य की प्राप्ति हेतु सरकार की प्रकार सहायता कर सकती है। साथ ही, इसके उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने में आने वाली चुनौतियों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

How can the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme help in achieving an Atmanirbhar Bharat? What are the challenges in realizing its objectives?
(Answer in 150 words) 10

Production linked incentive (PLI) scheme intends to reward benefits to manufacturers based on the incremental quantum of their production in various sectors.



PLI scheme's role in Atmanirbhar Bharat

- (1) Incentivise local production by giving tax benefits etc to producers.
- (2) Ensure import substitution of important intermediate and raw materials
Ex API's in Pharma, semiconductor chips for solar panel etc
- (3) Boost employment - with present labour

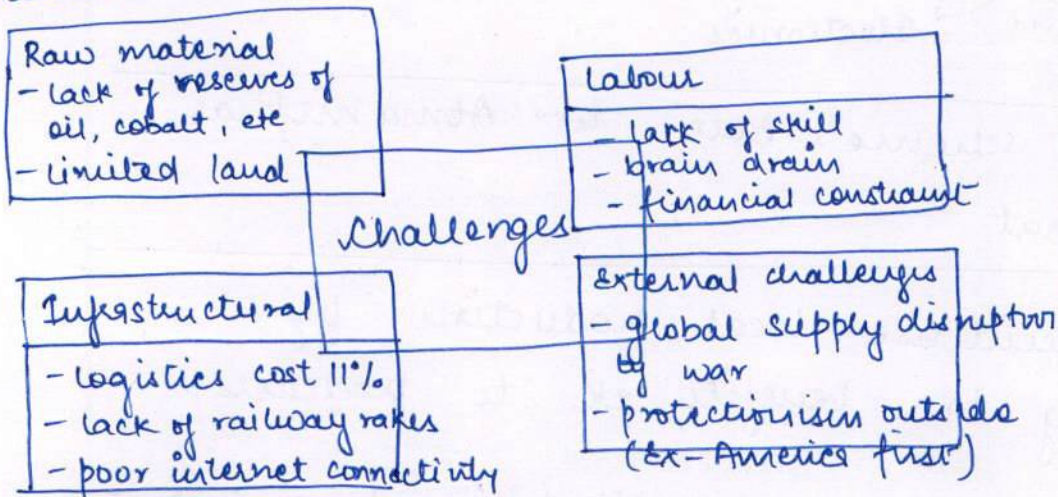
force participation rate of 45%, incentivising production will enhance employment.

(4) Export led growth - by manufacturing important components of Global supply chains. Ex- Mobile handset parts etc.

(5) Enhance foreign reserves (presently around \$600 mn) - to insure greater import cover.

(6) Reduce fiscal deficit by enhancing trade prospects

(7) Give a boost to Make in India and Assemble in India



Thus, to ensure PLI scheme's role in realizing Atmanirbhar Bharat's vision

we need RAPID changes (Result oriented, Add Finances, Participation of People, Internet support and Development oriented factories).

5. भारत के नवाचार परिवेश के समक्ष कौन-सी विभिन्न चुनौतियां विद्यमान हैं? इन चुनौतियों का समाधान कैसे किया जा सकता है?

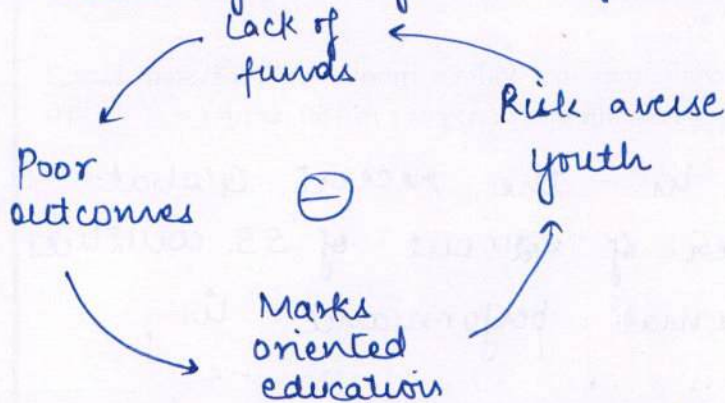
What are the various challenges that India's innovation ecosystem faces?
How can these challenges be addressed? (Answer in 150 words) 10

India's rank in the recent Global Innovation Index of 42 out of 55 countries show the dismal performance in innovation.

Challenges in India's Innovation Ecosystem

- (1) Unclear IPR Policy - Intellectual Property Rights incentivise innovation and must reduce "evergreening patents", while simultaneously enhancing innovation
- (2) Lack of funds - Taxation on Angel Funds and venture capitalist reduce funds available for startups investing in "state-of-the-art" technologies.
- (3) Lack of infrastructural support - Delays in product registration, land allotment dissuades innovation
- (4) Policy uncertainty - often results in retrospective taxation, harassment of producers etc.

(5) Vicious cycle of lack of entrepreneurial zeal



(6) Lack of international collaboration with subject experts on AI, ML, IoT etc

(7) Infrastructural gaps and unskilled youth

Solutions ① Raise IPR awareness Ex-IPNavis

② Greater proliferation of Atal Turing Labs

③ Close collaboration of schools with likes of NASA, ICAR, CSE etc

④ hold challenges in colleges. Ex-robot, verti-robot etc.

⑤ Lab based studies should be part of curricula in schools + colleges

⑥ Innovative products should be added as a category in Priority sector lending.

Thus, a combination of infrastructural development and focus on skilling and enhancing entrepreneurial zeal through

Stand Up India, Startup India, Micro loans will
ensure results

6. जलवायु परिवर्तन में वृद्धि से मोटे अनाज की खेती का पुनरुद्धार किस प्रकार हो रहा है। साथ ही, भारत में मोटे अनाज के उत्पादन को गति देने के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

How is the advent of climate change leading to the revival of cultivation of millets? What steps have been taken by the government to give an impetus to millet production in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Climate change induced warming has reduced other crops ability to manage stress with millets emerging as a "bright star" in agriculture.



Fig - major millet producing areas in India

Fact file

- ⊙ 80mnT = millet production 2021
- ⊙ India 5th largest producer in the world
- ⊙ 2nd largest in Asia

Advent of climate change leading to revival of millets

- ① Drought Tolerant - Ragi, Jowar, Bajra grow abundantly in Rajasthan, Karnataka and Andhra etc despite heat stress.
- ② Less water requirement - Since most countries are water stressed, millets

provide an excellent alternative

③ Nutritional security - Decreasing production of other crops is fully compensated as millets provide adequate nutrition, if not more. Ex - Pagi has Vitamin A, B, etc

④ Less cost involved - With climate change led financial losses, millets provide huge harvest in minimum investment.

⑤ Negative feedback to climate change - Unlike paddy which leads to methane emission or issue of stubble, millets are mess free.

Steps by Govt

① National Millet Mission [Ex - Odisha's millet movement]

② National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture promotes Millet.

③ Increasing awareness by declaration of UN Decade of Millet, Year of millet

④ Extension facilities by engaging with ICAR

⑤ Collaboration with FSSAI in 'Eat Right Movement' and providing processed millet products.

Thus, through schemes like PM SAMPADA,

Ragi chips, Towar Fingers can lead to

climate resilience as well as nutritional security (SDG 2)

7. चारे की खराब गुणवत्ता और उसकी अपर्याप्त उपलब्धता भारत में पशुधन की कम उत्पादकता के लिए उत्तरदायी प्रमुख कारण हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

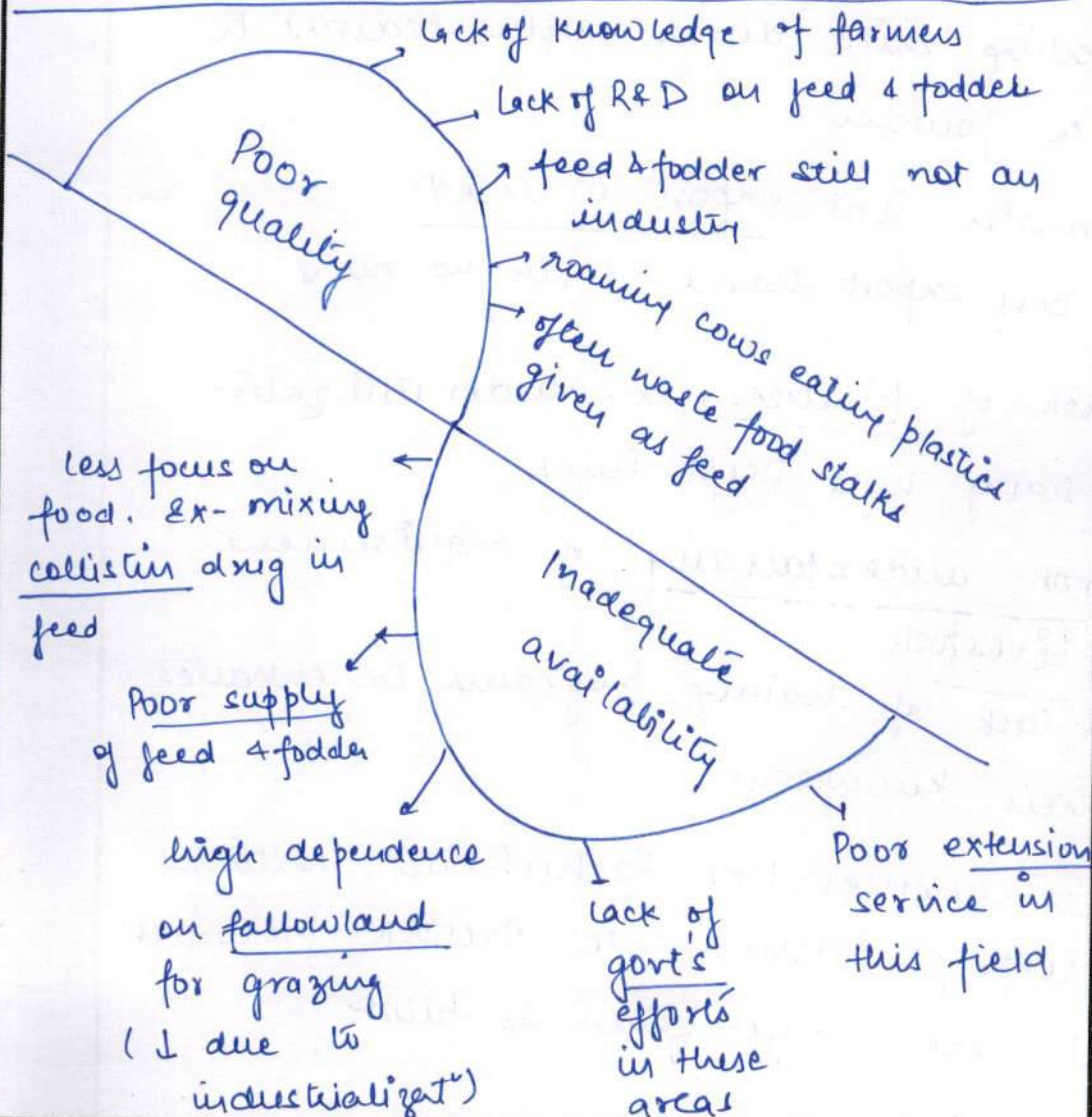
Poor quality and inadequate availability of feeds and fodder are the major reasons behind the low productivity of the livestock in India. Discuss.

(Answer in 150 words)

10

Despite having the largest number of cattle, buffaloes and cows in India, our rank isn't commensurate in meat and milk export.

Reasons behind low productivity of livestock in India - :



But, there are other reasons as well

① Disease in livestock

Ex - Foot and Mouth Disease in cattle

(Recently govt made FMD vaccine mandatory)

② Over reliance on Drugs like antibiotics -
poor focus on good food and hygiene

③ Lack of forward and backward linkages

Ex - meat processing not full fledged,
converting milk during surplus seasons to
milk powder

④ Growth isn't export oriented

Ex - Beef export hasn't taken up much

⑤ Lack of finances - ex - underutilization
of Dairy Infra Devt Fund.

⑥ Poor understanding of requirement
of livestock

Ex - lack of training programs to enhance
farmers knowledge

With schemes like Pashu Dhan, National
Beekeeping Mission etc livestock production/-
will see huge gains in future

8. एकीकृत कीट प्रबंधन (IPM) क्या है? IPM के उद्देश्यों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इसके विभिन्न घटकों पर चर्चा कीजिए।
What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)? State its objectives and discuss its various components. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Integrated Pest Management requires comprehensive pest control by ensuring death of deadly pests while allowing pollinators to thrive.

Objectives of Integrated Pest Management

- (1) Not harming pollinators
- (2) Solving pest problem comprehensively without adversely affecting environment
- (3) Ensure crops aren't disease struck
- (4) Prevent major diseases in crops.
Ex - Rotten stalk in wheat etc
- (5) Control major pests like - Bacteria, fungi etc in one go.
- (6) Reduce cost implications for farmers.
- (7) Ensure climate resilience of crops and pests that might affect it -

Components of IPM

(A) Environmental Sustainability

- no loss to ecosystems
- reduced use of poison
- ensure survival of good pests
- use natural pesticides
- no invasive species to be used

(B) Pest management

- in line with sustainability
- ensure resilience to climate change
- reduce cost overruns for farmers

Thus, IPM has the capacity to double farmer's income (Ashok Dalwai committee) and lead India to become a \$ trillion USD economy.

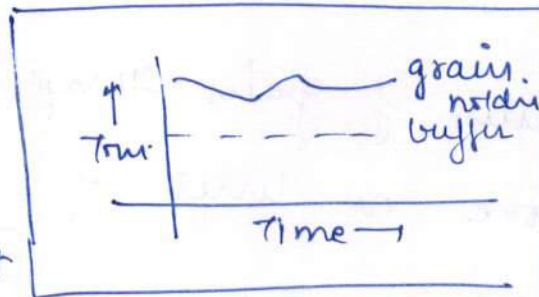
9. बताइए कि किस प्रकार अनाज की वास्तविक कमी की तुलना में खराब खाद्यान्न प्रबंधन भारत में खाद्य सुरक्षा के समक्ष एक बड़ी चुनौती रहा है।

How has poor grain management been a greater challenge to food security in India than the actual shortage of grains? (Answer in 150 words) 10

India's food grain stock has always been above buffer limits owing to govt's constant push to remain high in food security.

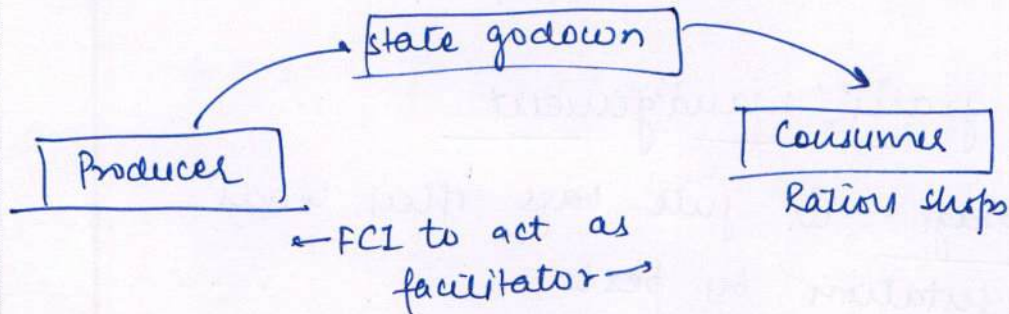
Poor grain management

- ① Storage - in jute bags often leads to infestation by pests.
- ② open storage - makes them vulnerable to vagaries of nature. Ex- rainfall destroying crops.
- ③ lack of raised platforms to store grains - water infesting in
- ④ lack of sites to store grains in clean and hygiene environment



Solutions

- ① Integrated Grain Management on lines of Chattisgarh Model
- ② Proper ways for grain storage
- ③ Decentralised Food distribution



- ④ Reduce buffer requirements
- ⑤ store in steel silos not jute bags
- ⑥ Extra cereals should be distributed freely to poor to ensure no hunger deaths.

Thus, if grain storage is effectively done on lines of WADHWA committee recommendation, it will reduce food shortage

10. शहरी कृषि से आप क्या समझते हैं और इसके विभिन्न प्रकारों का वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत के संदर्भ में इसके महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए।
Explain what you understand by urban agriculture and state its types.
Discuss its significance in the context of India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

With rising urban areas, urban agriculture is a major tool for ensuring food security.

Urban agriculture implies growing fruits and vegetables in urban areas in whatever space is available. Types -

- ① Vertical Gardens - ensure effective use of less space available.
- ② Terrace farming - growing fruits and vegetables on terrace
- ③ Hydroponics - use of water to grow plants
- ④ Kitchen gardens - to grow vegetables locally.

Significance

- ① Economic use - Recently many people

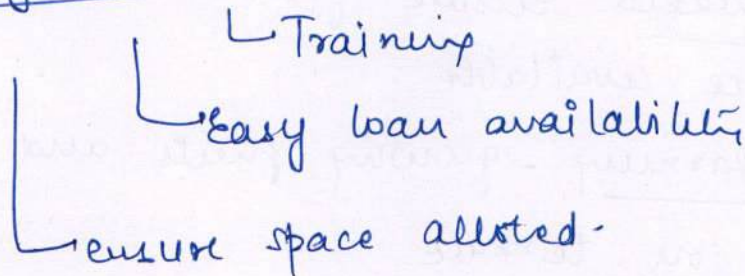
have started making income from selling these produce.

② Greenery in cement Deserts will soothe tempus.

③ Ensure food security which has been challenged because of climate change.

④ will lead to delivery of fresh produce to urban areas

Way forward → Policy support



Thus, urban agriculture holds huge potential to alleviate hunger & ensure economic gains

11. भारत में तीव्र शहरीकरण को देखते हुए, शहरी क्षेत्रों में पूंजी निवेश की बढ़ती मांग को पूरा करने के लिए म्युनिसिपल बॉण्ड्स का उपयोग करना आवश्यक हो गया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

In view of India's rapid urbanisation, it has become imperative to tap into municipal bonds to meet the rising demand of capital investment in urban areas. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

With 30% of urbanised area which is rapidly increasing and increased requirement of services in these areas, increased flow of finances is a must.

Needs of capital in urbanised area

- ↳ infrastructural development like road, railways etc
- ↳ additional housing requirement
- ↳ sanitation requirements
- ↳ associated cost of manpower and material for these.

Capital investment presently (Budget)

↳ Total expenditure = 15% GDP

12% revenue 3% Capex

= 10 lakh crore
(highest in last few years)

can be aided by municipal bonds.

Requirement of Municipal bonds

① Solve resource crunch of municipalities and state: Ex - Indore municipal bond is one component of ensuring it remains the cleanest city.

② Investment Grade - Recent NITI Aayog report on municipal bonds have highlighted that 59% municipal bonds issued in India were of investment grade or higher.

③ Rising needs require innovative funding mechanism

Ex - on the lines of IFC's Masala bond, municipal bond can be released internationally with security of consolidated fund of state.

④ Bottom up approach of development
The revenue kitty of states will ensure that developmental planning occurs bottom up.

- ⑤ In collaboration with schemes like - climate smart village, smart city etc.
- ⑥ Reduce fiscal deficit of states and help them in achieving targets of FRBM act to reduce their public debts.

Issues → ① Lack of awareness in issuing them.

- ② Trust deficit of public in investing in them.
- ③ long gestation periods
- ④ High face value ex - 10 lakh as face value
- ⑤ Difficulty in bringing in High Value individuals
- ⑥ May lead to crowding out

Way Forward → Centre should handhold states in releasing bonds

→ Increase public trust, security on CFI

→ ↑ awareness of investors

Thus, municipal bonds can enhance capex of the state and kickstart virtuous cycle of high saving rate (28% of GDP now) and investment rate (30% of GDP)

12. भारत ने आर्थिक संवृद्धि, महिला शिक्षा और प्रजनन दर जैसे विभिन्न विकास मानदंडों पर महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति हासिल की है। हालांकि, देश की महिला श्रम बल भागीदारी दर (FLFPR) वैश्विक स्तर पर सबसे कम है। चर्चा कीजिए। भारत में FLFPR में सुधार के लिए कौन-से कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं।
India has achieved significant strides in various development parameters such as economic growth, women's education, and fertility rates. However, the country's Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) remains amongst the lowest in the world. Discuss. What measures can be taken to improve the FLFPR in India? (Answer in 250 words) 15

India ranked 122/146 in Gender Gap Index in 2023, a jump from a position of 135/146 in 2022.

Good performance of India in developmental parameters

① Reduction in Multidimensional



② Reduction in fertility

rates to replacement
(TFR) levels {with North South
Divide }

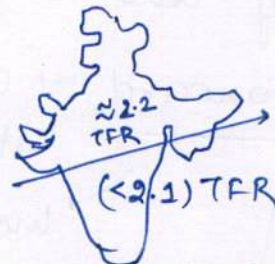


Fig: TFR in India

③ Economic growth:

GDP = 2 trillion USD

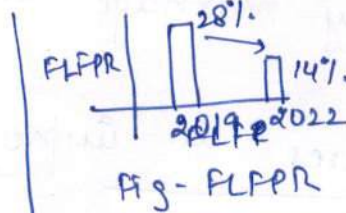
3th largest economy (nominal)

3rd largest economy (PPP)

per capita income \approx ₹ 95,000

- ④ Reduction in Poverty: 235 million people lifted out of (absolute) poverty in 2004-05 to 2015-16

Female labour force Participation Rate
still remains low as



Ⓐ Structural gaps

- ① lack of toilets in school

⇒ dropout ⇒ ↓ skill ⇒ poor LFPR

② Feminization of jobs

⇒ reduces women's participation in certain jobs. Ex - mining.

③ lack of niche facility

⇒ mid career exit of women

④ lack of opportunities to join market force. Ex - after child grows to an age

⑤ ill effect of maternity Act

⇒ women become undesirable in market economy

Ⓑ Societal issues

- ① care giving role of women still given primacy.

② often rich households dissuade their women from working \Rightarrow consider it as disrespect.

③ Early marriage and child's responsibility

Measures to improve

Education and skill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - build toilets - school near habitations or transport facility - scholarship for women
---------------------	---

Kiran, Gati, Cere scheme mid career allow them to join stand up India creche facility and prevent exploitation	STEM and integration in R&D, etc
--	----------------------------------

Societal changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Role models like Kiran Bedi - Paternity leave - conducive environment, \downarrow gendered roles
------------------	---

Thus, to enhance FLFPR, it is required that govt households society into understanding women's potential and utilizing their skills

13. क्या आपको लगता है कि निजी और सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र का सहयोग भारत में शहरी बुनियादी ढांचे से संबंधित निवेश मॉडल के सफल विकास की कुंजी है? अपने उत्तर का औचित्य सिद्ध कीजिए।

Do you think that the collaboration of private and public sector is the key to the successful development of an investment model related to urban infrastructure in India? Justify your answer. (Answer in 250 words) 15

With rising urban areas, investment models are required to be developed by both public and private sector to turn them into success.

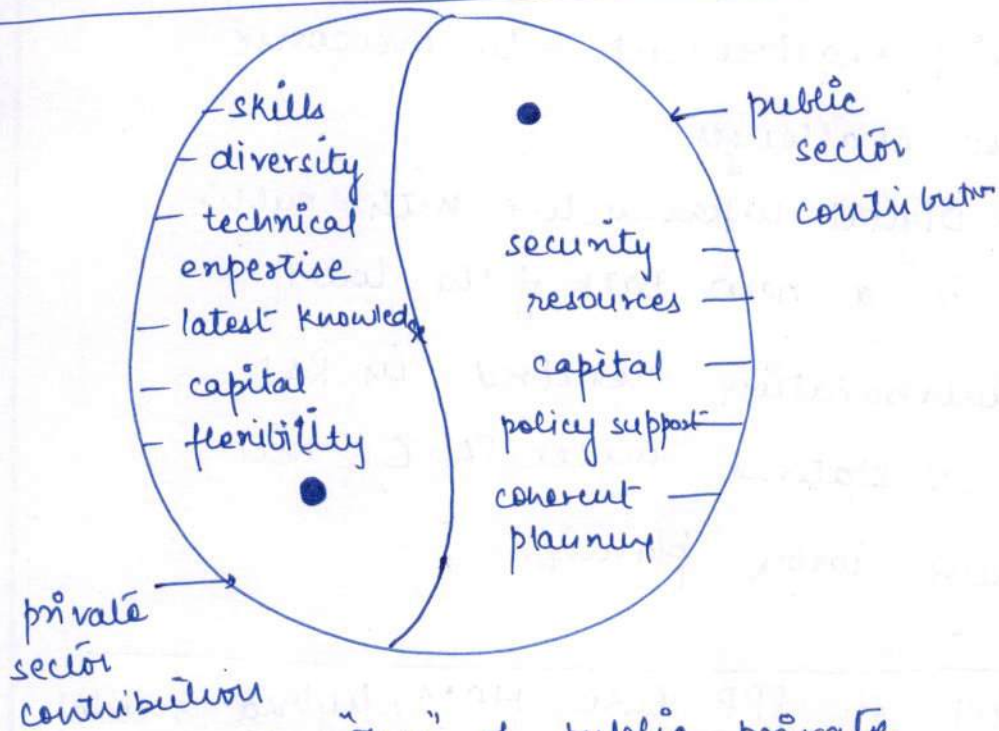


Fig - The "Zen" of public-private collaboration in investment models in urban areas

Need for pvt-public collaboration

- ① longer gestation periods of infrastructural projects.

- ② Dynamic nature of projects require constant upgradation.
Ex- automation, new construction techniques
- ③ Huge funds required - require help from both public and private sector
- ④ Skill requirement - to overcome latest challenges.
Ex - Digital infrastructure with public Wi-Fi is a new talk of the town.
- ⑤ Collaboration required in R&D
Ex - EV stations under FAME will require proper planning.

Effect of PPP like HAM, hybrid model

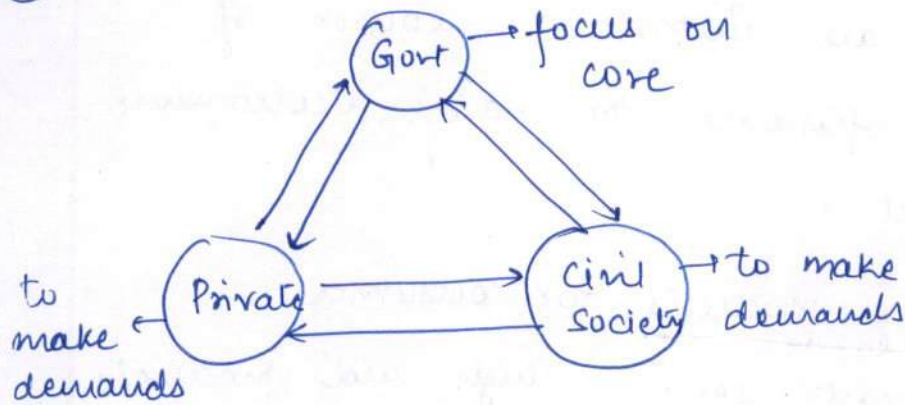
- ① Self sustaining infrastructure :
Ex - Yamuna highway is sustained by private sector and developed by govt's aid.

② Reduction in cost

Ex- Use of false ceiling and fly ash from thermal plant can reduce cost of houses in PM Awas Yojana.

③ Environmental sustainability

Ex- Use of plastics in road building

④ Better governance outcomes

Thus, urban infrastructure based on requirements of IR4.0 with connectivity - physical + digital can be achieved by collaboration of public and private.

14. प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (FDI) भारत के आर्थिक विकास के लिए गैर-ऋण वित्त के एक महत्वपूर्ण स्रोत के रूप में कार्य कर सकता है। भारत में FDI को बढ़ावा देने हेतु कौन-से कदम उठाए गए हैं।
How can Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) act as an important source of non-debt finance for India's economic development? What steps have been taken to boost FDI in India? (Answer in 250 words) 15

India's FDI was 84mn USD in 2022 a jump of 10% from previous years and is expected to rise to USD 100mn soon

FDI as an important source of non-debt finance for India's economic development :-

① Diversify products for consumers

Ex - Walmart selling high end products

② Enhance employment opportunities

Ex - any FDI investment will require local labour.

③ Develop nearby areas

- by acting as a market source, it will ensure that nearby areas get developed in terms of connectivity

④ Aid capex of govt (India's capex = 3% of GDP), FDI can help enhance it.

Ex - Investment in road, post, health, education

⑤ Foster Atmanirbhar Bharat by enhancing manufacturing

Ex - 100% FDI in pharma industry will boost agenda of Atmanirbhar Bharat

⑥ Technical skills and prudence
Ex - use of latest softwares in business

⑦ Aid Make in India and Assemble in India

⑧ in line with PLI scheme to boost domestic production.

Steps taken to boost FDI in

India

① Enhancing automatic routes entry
Ex - 100% allowed in pharma, mfg etc

② Entry into defence sector to promote indigenisation in defence manufacturing
Ex - 47% allowed, 74% govt approval.

- (3) single window clearance through
Daksh Portal
- (4) Easy Custom clearance ICEDASH portal
- (5) Approval by concerned ministry to
reduce time required for approval.

Way Forward

- ↳ Enhance IPR systems
- ↳ collaborate for training youth
- ↳ skill for IR 4.0
- ↳ easy entry and exit in FDI
- ↳ enhance capital account convertibility

Thus, FDI holds huge potential to
enhance India's developmental gains
and should be leveraged to make
India a Jagan Guni.

15. भारत में कोयला निष्कर्षण संबंधी बुनियादी ढांचे को उन्नत बनाने और कोयले की समग्र प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता में सुधार हेतु माल ढुलाई लागत को कम करने के लिए हस्तक्षेप की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

There is a need for interventions to enhance the coal evacuation infrastructure and reduce the freight cost to improve the overall competitiveness of coal in India. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

The recent coal shortage led to a loss of 2.3% of GDP to the economy as per a latest CMIE report.

challenges in coal evacuation infrastructure

- lack of access roads
- lesser availability of rakes by railways
- need of heavy machinery to carry them

↳ environmental guidelines have strict restrictions on them

- coal washing, covering up coal etc.
- enhances cost.

interventions required in coal evacuation infrastructure

(1) Gati Shakti Terminal Model - This will give private siding to coal mining industry for quicker transportation

(2) Ensure connecting infrastructure between coal bearing areas and place of delivery of coal.

(3) Labour charges should be reduced to ensure easy transport

Need to reduce freight cost

↳ reduces their stand in market

↳ already have high ash content

↳ washing adds on to the cost

↳ logistics cost of 10-12% will further add to cost

↳ essential for social justice and social security

↳ reduce cost of exports finally

↳ have a ripple effect on economy and inflation

Ways to improve competitiveness of coal

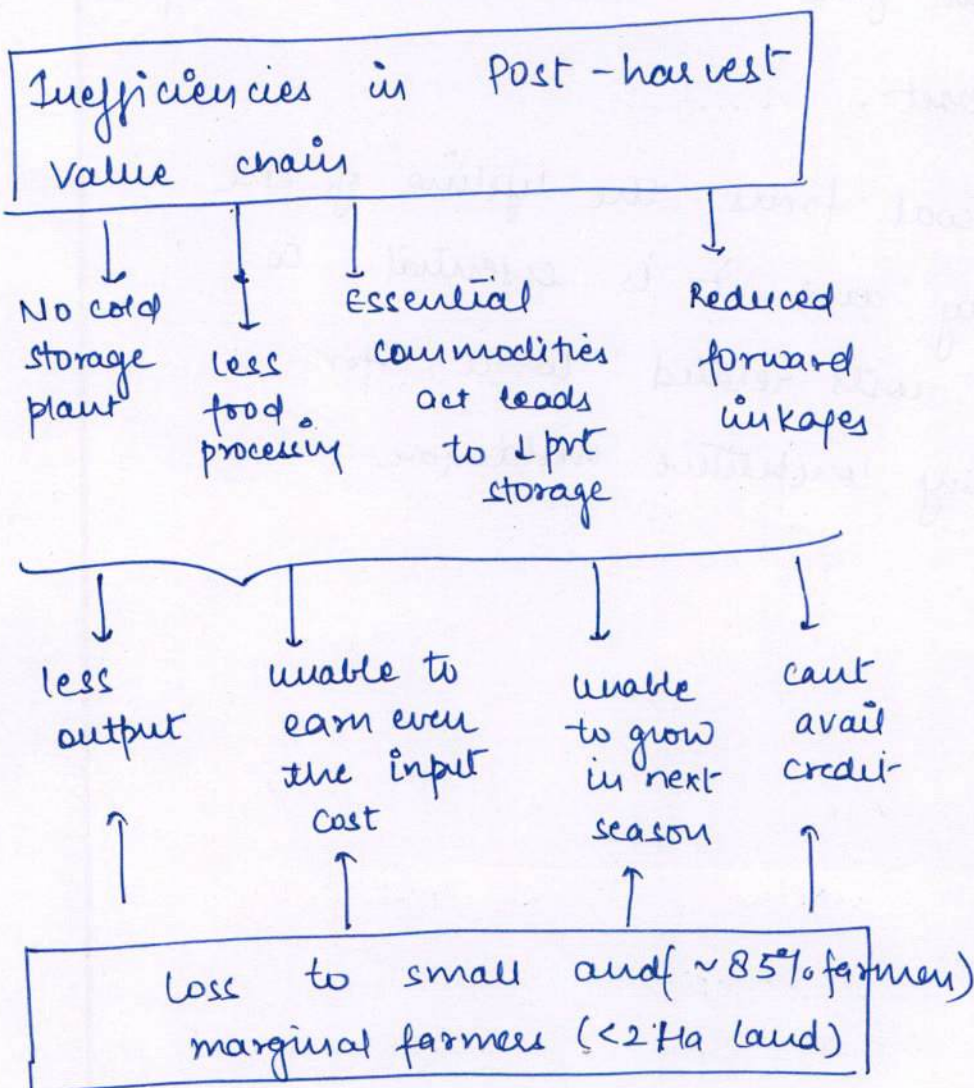
- (1) Reduce stringent environmental clearances
- (2) Policy certainty
- (3) Provision of rakes with railways to deliver coal on time
- (4) Ensure forward and backward linkages are met

Thus, coal forms the lifeline of our economy and it is essential to reduce costs related to it, for remaining competitive worldwide

16. फसल कटाई के बाद की मूल्य श्रृंखला में अक्षमताओं के कारण लघु और सीमांत किसानों की आजीविका पर अत्यधिक प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ने के साथ-साथ फसल की हानि हो रही है। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। इन चिंताओं को दूर करने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाए हैं?

The inefficiencies in post-harvest value chain are leading to crop losses, with significant adverse impact on the livelihood of small and marginal farmers. Discuss in the context of India. What steps has the government taken to address these concerns? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Around 40% perishable items go waste due to unavailability of storage systems and freezers, adversely impacting especially small and marginal farmer.



Small and marginal farmers facing
brunt of inefficiencies in post-harvest
value chain

① Lack of exports

↳ fail in sanitary & phytosanitary
measures (Ex - flies on Alphonso)

↳ less diversified export basket

↳ Organic tag not availed

② Ineffective marketing

↳ have to finish off the
product

↳ cant transport to areas within
India

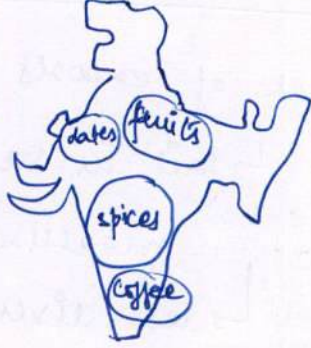
↳ eNAM not used

③ Market demands unmet

↳ finished products reqd like JAM
etc

↳ Ready-to-eat meals required
Ex - soups etc.

Steps taken by India

- ① PM-SAMPADA Yojana to enhance Food Processing
- ② cluster based approach → 
- ③ PLI scheme in food processing Yojana
- ④ MAYA scheme to retain youth in agriculture
- ⑤ Agri Extension by coordinating with ICAR etc.
- ⑥ Ensure backward and forward linkages
- ⑦ Matsya Sampada Yojana
- ⑧ from fork to farm to understand user requirements.

Thus, post harvest value chain development can ensure doubling of farmer income and achieving SDG 2 together.

17. भारत में भूमि अभिलेखों से संबंधित मौजूदा मुद्दे क्या हैं। भूमि अभिलेखों का डिजिटलीकरण और 'लैंड टाइटलिंग' (भू-स्वामित्व का निर्धारण) इनके समाधान में कैसे मदद कर सकता है।

What are the existing issues related to land records in India? How can digitisation of land records and conclusive 'land titling' help in addressing them? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Recent NITI Aayog report on the need to shift from presumptive land titling to conclusive land titling has brought this topic again in the news.

Issues with land records

① Based on presumptive land titling-

proof of exchange of land needs to be shown, conclusive title ship not given.

② High litigation on ownership of land titles.

③ Severely affects land leasing as people are afraid of losing land in the process.

④ Incomplete Digitalisation of Land Records Scheme.

- ⑤ Unused lands lying vacant as matter is "de jure".
- ⑥ Poor utilization of land assets.

Digitalisation of land records

↳ SWAMITVA scheme to use GIS and GPS to mark land titleship

↳ DMIRLP to ensure that land records are digitised and titleship is conclusive.

conclusive land titling

↳ govt will give land title to a person

↳ if any dispute arises, case will be fought against the govt.

↳ any compensation ^{to be} provided to the litigant will be given by the govt

Benefits

- ① Reduce litigation
- ② Enhance land leasing
- ③ Ease of Doing Business as easy to buy land
- ④ Adequate compensation to owners during redevelopment project.
- ⑤ Ensure easy land transfer
- ⑥ Can be used to carry out land reform practices
- ⑦ Ensure that no one illegally captures someone else's land

Thus, land ^{Record} digitalisation & conclusive land titling can ensure that land can be easily transferred as an asset.

18. ऊर्जा क्षेत्र के संदर्भ में डीकार्बोनाइजेशन, विकेंद्रीकरण और डिजिटलीकरण की प्रवृत्तियां तेजी से उभर रही हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।
When it comes to the energy sector, the trends of decarbonisation, decentralisation and digitisation are fast emerging. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Energy sector is witnessing fast pace changes due to coming up of new technology like Green hydrogen, Etc

Decarbonisation of Energy Sector

Need → to ↓ GHG

- reverse global warming
- ensure climate temp $\neq 1^\circ\text{C}$ (rise)
- reverse climate change effects

Ways of Decarbonisation

Non-renewable → use fly ash in construction
 ↳ coal washing to reduce dust
 ↳ cover coal rakes, so that PM dust travel in air

Renewable

① Emphasis on Solar Energy through

Schemes like Solar Mission, KUSUM.

Use of "Solar Mitras" to train repair works

- ② New and emerging markets of green hydrogen
- ③ E-vehicles (Zero emission)
 - from vehicle
 - from industry mfg. vehicles
 - ↙ use of Li-ion battery
 - ↘ charged by electricity
- ④ Use of wind energy, water energy and OTEC.

Decentralisation

- ① Connecting power generated by farmers by solar energy to grid
- ② transfer of energy to far flung areas by local production
- ③ consumers asking for use of renewable energy to energy producer
- ④ Use of Biogas - GOBARDHAN scheme

Digitisation of Energy sector

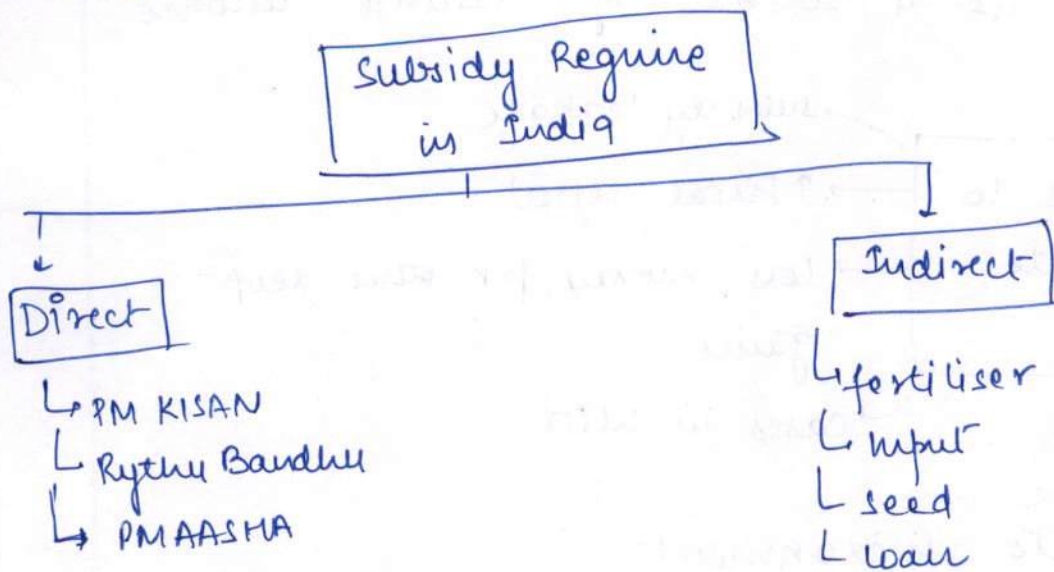
- ↳ use of new machinery
- ↳ payment of energy via online methods
- ↳ use of UDAY scheme
- ↳ online Renewable certificates in energy production.

Thus, in lieu of commitments to Paris climate change, it is imperative to further these trends by

- increase R&D
- collaborate with international best practices
- clean energy cess ↑
- more bonds and CSR activities in energy sector.

19. यद्यपि भारत में कृषि सब्सिडी ने किसानों की आय में वृद्धि की है, तथापि इन्होंने पर्यावरणीय निम्नीकरण और जैव विविधता के ह्रास में भी योगदान दिया है। चर्चा कीजिए।
Agricultural subsidies have supported farmers' income in India, but they have also contributed to environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.
Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

India gives 4% of its GDP as subsidies with 2% going as food subsidy 1.75% of GDP as fertilizer subsidy.

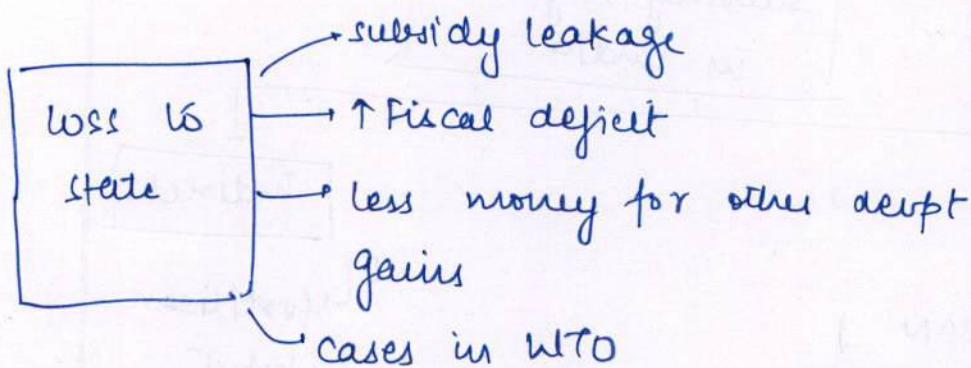


Agricultural subsidies helping farmers

① Reduced Input cost - Subsidised Urea,
DBT subsidy reduce input cost

② Ensured output cost - paying MSP
or difference of market rate and
MSP falls as a burden on govt.

- ③ Increase in formal credit growth - due to interest subvention scheme.
- ④ Reduction in cases of suicide due to assured supply
- ⑤ PM KISAN - ₹6000/- is given and it acts as a source of assured income



Affects environment

- ① Skewed NPK ratio
- | | |
|--------|------------|
| reqd | 4:2:1 |
| actual | 6: 8.2 : 1 |
- ② Focus on MSP crops especially wheat rice systems. Issues -
- water guzzling crops
 - lack of other crops
 - lack of focus on horticultural crops

→ huge import dependence of oil
due to lack of production

- ③ introduction of GM crops
- biodiversity loss
- mingling of natural & GM species.

④ Prevents diversification of system
of cropping

⑤ Promotes monoculture ⇒ "leads to
green deserts"

⑥ farmers get caught in "cobweb
phenomenon"

Ex - pulse selling for high prices this
season, everyone to grow it next
year.

Thus, there is a need to recalibrate
the way in which subsidies are
planned to reduce their negative
consequences. like Nutrient based subsidy

20. सड़क क्षेत्रक में बुनियादी ढांचे के वित्त-पोषण को सुव्यवस्थित करने के लिए कई उपायों को अपनाए जाने के बावजूद, निजी निवेश ने सीमित भूमिका ही निभाई है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Despite adoption of numerous measures to streamline financing of infrastructure in the road sector, private investment has played a limited role. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

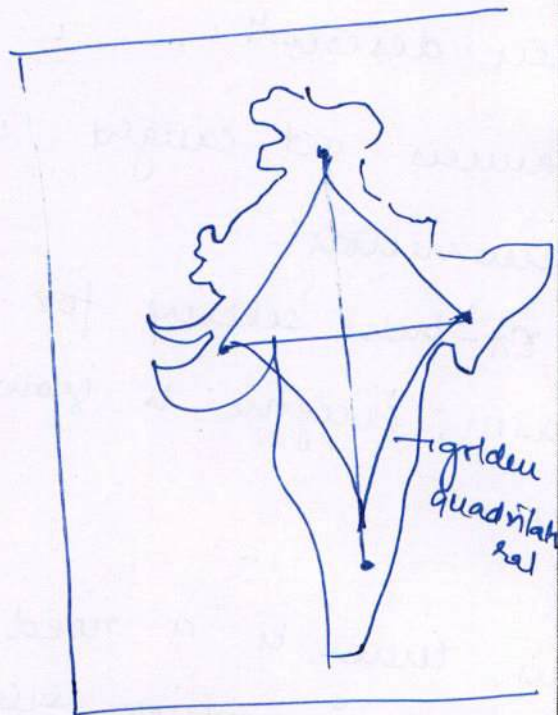
Road infrastructures have always been the responsibility of the govt with less participation of private sector.

Numerous measures to streamline financing in road sector

① opening up of FDI in infra sector

② Easy flow of PPP models to ensure enhanced participation

③ Use of private companies to incorporate new tech.
Ex- plastic in roads etc



Minimum role of pvt

- ① Govt through PM Gram Sadak Yojana makes roads
- ② long gestation periods dissuades private entities
- ③ Meagre profits disincentivises them to participate
- ④ lack of developed bond market
- ⑤ Issues in land acquisition
- ⑥ lack of profits due to litigation
- ⑦ infrastructural challenges and policy loopholes
- ⑧ lack of single window clearance
- ⑨ issues in arbitration
- ⑩ Policy uncertainty

Some good examples

- ↳ Yamuna expressway
- ↳ Pune-Mumbai highway

Way Forward

- ↳ Policy certainty
- ↳ Ensure profit
- ↳ Public sector collaboration.

Thus, recommendations of Rakesh Singh committee to enhance public participation in road infra is the need of the hour.