



VISIONIAS
INSPIRING INNOVATION
ABHYAAS MAINS

सामान्य अध्ययन (प्रश्न पत्र-II)/GENERAL STUDIES (Paper-II) (4511)

निर्धारित समय: तीन घंटे
Time Allowed: **Three Hours**

अधिकतम अंक: 250
Maximum Marks: 250

सामान्य अनुदेश

इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू.सी.ए.) पुस्तिका में 55+1 पृष्ठ हैं। प्रश्न-पत्र, क्यू.सी.ए. पुस्तिका के अंत में संलग्न है, जो अलग (वियोज्य) किया जा सकता है और उम्मीदवार परीक्षा के उपरांत अपने साथ ले जा सकते हैं।

रफ कार्य के लिए, इस पुस्तिका के अंत में खाली पृष्ठ दिया गया है।

पुस्तिका प्राप्त होने पर, कृपया यह जांच कर लें कि इस क्यू.सी.ए. पुस्तिका में कोई कमी न हो, फटा हुआ पृष्ठ न हो अथवा कोई पृष्ठ गायब न हो इत्यादि। यदि ऐसा हो, तो इसके बदले नई क्यू.सी.ए. पुस्तिका प्राप्त कर लें।

General Instructions

This Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet contains 55+1 pages. Question Paper in detachable form is available at the end of the QCA Booklet which can be taken away by the candidate after examination.

For rough work, blank page has been provided at the end of this Booklet.

On receipt of the Booklet, please check that this QCA Booklet does not have any shortcomings, torn or missing pages etc. If, so, get it replaced with a fresh QCA Booklet.

(उम्मीदवार द्वारा भरा जाएगा/To be filled by the Candidate)

पंजीकरण सं./Registration No. : 46054445

अभ्यर्थी का नाम/Name of Student : Rasneet Kaur

माध्यम: हिंदी/अंग्रेजी
Medium: Hindi/English

English.

तारीख
Date

26 July, 2025

**सामान्य अध्ययन (प्रश्न पत्र-II)
GENERAL STUDIES (Paper II)**

केंद्र
Centre

Chandigarh

निरीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर
Invigilator's Signature

	महत्वपूर्ण अनुदेश	Important Instructions
	उम्मीदवारों को नीचे उल्लिखित निर्देश सावधानी से पढ़ लेने चाहिए। किसी भी निर्देश का उल्लंघन करने पर उम्मीदवारों को मिलने वाले अंकों में कटौती, उम्मीदवारी रद्द या आयोग के परवर्ती परीक्षाओं के लिए वर्जित करने इत्यादि के रूप में दण्डित किया जा सकता है।	Candidates should read the undermentioned instructions carefully. Violation of any of the following instructions may entail penalty in the form of deduction of marks, cancellation of candidature, debarment from further Examination of the Commission etc.
1	(क) अपना पंजीकरण सं. एवं अन्य विवरण केवल प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका (क्यू.सी.ए.) में उम्मीदवार के लिए निर्धारित स्थान पर ही लिखें। (ख) इस पुस्तिका में अन्यत्र कहीं भी अपना नाम, पंजीकरण सं., मोबाइल नं., पता अथवा प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका (क्यू.सी.ए.) संख्या न लिखें जिससे आपकी पहचान का खुलासा हो।	(a) Write your Registration Number and other details only in the space provided in the Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet for candidates. (b) Do not disclose your identity in any manner such as, by writing your Name, Registration number, Mobile number, Address, Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet No. etc. elsewhere in the Booklet
2	अपनी प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में कहीं भी प्रश्नों के वास्तविक उत्तर के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें जैसे कि कोई कविता/दोहा, अभद्र या अपमानजनक अभिव्यक्ति इत्यादि और न ही कोई ऐसा चिन्ह/निशान बनाएं जिसका उत्तर से सम्बन्ध न हो।	Do not write in the QCA Booklet anything other than the actual answer such as couplet, obscene, abusive expression etc., nor put any sign/mark having no relevance to the answer.
3	परीक्षक को प्रत्यक्ष/अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से कोई भी प्रार्थना/धमकी भरी बातें न लिखें।	Do not make any direct/indirect appeal/threat to the examiner.
4	उत्तर अस्पष्ट अथवा गंदी लिखावट में न लिखें। इस प्रकार के उत्तर का मूल्यांकन नहीं भी किया जा सकता है।	Do not write answers in bad/illegible handwriting. Such answers may not be evaluated.
5	उत्तर स्याही में ही लिखें। उत्तर लिखने के लिए पेंसिल का उपयोग न करें, हालांकि आरेख, चित्र इत्यादि बनाने के लिए पेंसिल का उपयोग किया जा सकता है।	Write answers in ink only. Do not use pencil for writing the answers. However, pencil may be used for drawing diagrams, sketches, etc.
6	प्रवेश पत्र में उल्लेख किए गए माध्यम के अलावा अन्य किसी माध्यम में उत्तर न लिखें। अधिकृत और अनधिकृत की मिली जुली भाषा का भी उपयोग न करें।	Do not write answers in medium other than the authorized medium in the Admission Certificate. Do not use mixed language either i.e. authorize and unauthorized media together for writing answers.
7	प्रश्नों के उत्तर ठीक उसके नीचे दिए गए निर्धारित स्थान पर ही लिखें। निर्धारित स्थान के अलावा किसी अन्य स्थान पर लिखे गए उत्तर का मूल्यांकन नहीं किया जाएगा।	Write answer at the specific space (right below the question) only. Answers written elsewhere at unspecified places in the booklet shall not be evaluated.
8	यदि आप अपने किसी उत्तर को रद्द करना चाहते हैं तो उसे पेन से काट दें तथा उस पर "रद्द" लिख दें, अन्यथा उसका मूल्यांकन किया जा सकता है।	If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it and write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be valued.

कार्यालय के प्रयोग हेतु For Official Use	कार्यालय के प्रयोग हेतु For Official Use
परीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर Signature of Examiner(s)	

प्राप्तांक के विवरण (परीक्षक द्वारा भरा जाए)/ Marks Details (To be filled by the Examiner(s))

प्रश्न सं. Q. No.	अंक Marks		प्रश्न सं. Q. No.	अंक Marks	
1			11		
2			12		
3			13		
4			14		
5			15		
6			16		
7			17		
8			18		
9			19		
10			20		
उप-योग (A) Subtotal (A)			उप-योग (B) Subtotal (B)		
सकल योग (A+B) / GRAND TOTAL (A+B)					



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Time Allowed: **Three Hours**

अधिकतम अंक: 250
Maximum Marks: **250**

प्रश्न-पत्र संबंधी विशेष अनुदेश

कृपया प्रश्नों के उत्तर देने से पूर्व निम्नलिखित प्रत्येक अनुदेश को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ें:

कुल बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं जो हिंदी और अंग्रेजी दोनों में छपे हैं।

सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।

प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए नियत अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।

प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश-पत्र में किया गया है, और इस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू.सी.ए.) पुस्तिका के मुख-पृष्ठ पर निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिखे गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।

प्रश्न संख्या 1 से 10 तक का उत्तर 150 शब्दों में तथा प्रश्न संख्या 11 से 20 तक का उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए।

प्रश्नों में इंगित शब्द सीमा को ध्यान में रखिए।

प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गए कोई पृष्ठ अथवा पृष्ठ भाग को पूर्णतः काट दीजिए।

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions.

There are TWENTY questions printed both in HINDI and in ENGLISH.

All questions are compulsory.

The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

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 a medium other than the authorized one.

Answers to Questions No. 1 to 10 should be in 150 words, whereas answers to Questions No. 11 to 20 should be in 250 words.

Keep the word limit indicated in the questions in mind.

Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Questions-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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.

All the Best

1. अलीगढ़ मुस्लिम विश्वविद्यालय के अल्पसंख्यक दर्जे पर उच्चतम न्यायालय का हालिया निर्णय भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 30 की व्याख्या को कैसे प्रभावित करता है? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)
- How does the Supreme Court's recent decision on Aligarh Muslim University's minority status affect the interpretation of Article 30 of the Indian Constitution? (Answer in 150 words) 10

उम्मीदवारों को इस कक्ष में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Article - 30 of Indian Constitution

provides for educational rights of the minorities.

It provides for the right of minorities to manage their educational institutions.

Provisions :-

- (i) Can provide special provisions for their minority community students.
- (ii) Exemption from certain reservation criteria. (under Art-15(4))

Supreme Court decision

↓
in Aligarh Muslim University Case

- (i) SC upheld the minority status of AMU
- (ii) upheld its rights as per Article -30
- (iii) upheld its status as a "Muslim Minority University"

REFORMED THE INTERPRETATION OF Article - 30 ÷

1) Historical Context of the Institution has the main role in determining its status

[eg] AMU was founded by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan.

2) Administrative Control has a secondary role.

[eg] Although AMU majority Governance by non-minority officials — but still SC upheld its minority status.

3) Minority Institutions still must work for overall upliftment

Hence, SC interpretation of Article-30

opened newer scenarios for minority institutes in India.

2.

उच्चतम न्यायालय ने अपने हालिया निर्णय में राज्य विधान-मंडल के विधेयकों पर राज्यपाल की स्वीकृति के लिए एक समय-सीमा निर्धारित की है। इस निर्णय के भारत में सहकारी संघवाद और विधायी जवाबदेही के लिए क्या निहितार्थ हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The Supreme Court, in a recent verdict, prescribed a time period for the Governor's assent to state legislative bills. What are the implications of this judgment for cooperative federalism and legislative accountability in India? (Answer in 150 words)

उम्मीदवारों को इस क्राशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Supreme Court in recent "Governor vs. State of Tamil Nadu" (8 April, 2025)

Judgement prescribed time period for Governor Assent [via utilizing its power to do complete justice under Article-142]

Time Period Prescribed (under Article-200)

→ Within 3 months → for bill referred first time

→ Within 1 month → for bill resent after reconsideration.

IMPLICATIONS OF THIS JUDGEMENT ÷

1) Addresses State's Concerns

eg) Tamil Nadu Bills → were lagging for many years.

(2) legislative Accountability upheld.

↳ Greater Power with "People's Representatives"

(3) Fosters Accountable behavior on part of Governor

↳ earlier notion is — Governor = Agent of Centre.

(4) Cooperative Federalism promoted

↳ Governor working on the aid and advice of Council of minister.

BR Ambedkar said — "Governor under the Constitution have no powers which he can exercise on his own, no powers at all"

Certain Concerns

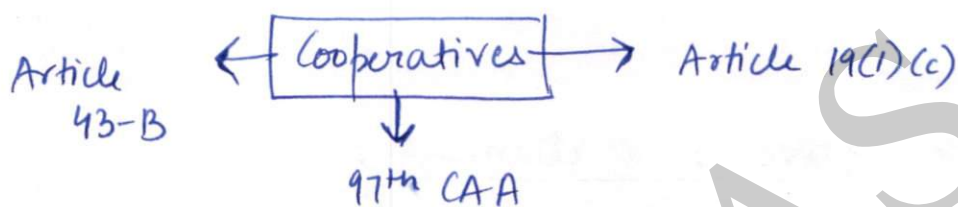
Judicial Outreach
↳ overuse of Article-142

Violates the principle of Separation of Powers (Art-50)

Recently, Pres. Droupadi Murmu seeked Judicial Opinion (under Article-143) that whether SC can impose timelines?

3. सहकारी क्षेत्रक में केंद्र और राज्यों के बीच के गतिरोध को कम करने के उद्देश्य से किए गए सहकारी संस्थाओं से संबंधित हालिया परिवर्तनों और पहलों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)
- Discuss the recent changes and initiatives related to cooperatives that aim to smoothen the tussle between the Centre and States in the cooperative sector. (Answer in 150 words) 10

97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011 gave a Constitutional Status to Cooperatives.



RECENT CHANGES AND INITIATIVES :-

1) Ministry of Cooperation (2021)

↳ established to streamline the working of cooperatives all over India

2) Model Cooperatives Act prepared by Centre → to aid states in Governance of Cooperatives.

3) Cooperatives comes under state list (7th schedule).

while Multi-state Cooperatives (under central list)

- 4) Centre provides Capability Building for state level Cooperatives.
- 5) Greater Autonomy to States to Chart their own policy for Cooperatives.
- 6) Grassroot Promotion
eg dairy based Cooperatives.

Still Tussle Persists in Some Areas due to :-

- (i) → Overlapping Jurisdiction
- (ii) → Centralizing tendencies.

Way forward → (i) Cooperative federalism in cooperative management

(ii) Vision of "SAHKAR SE SAMRIDDHI"

Must Guide our way forward.

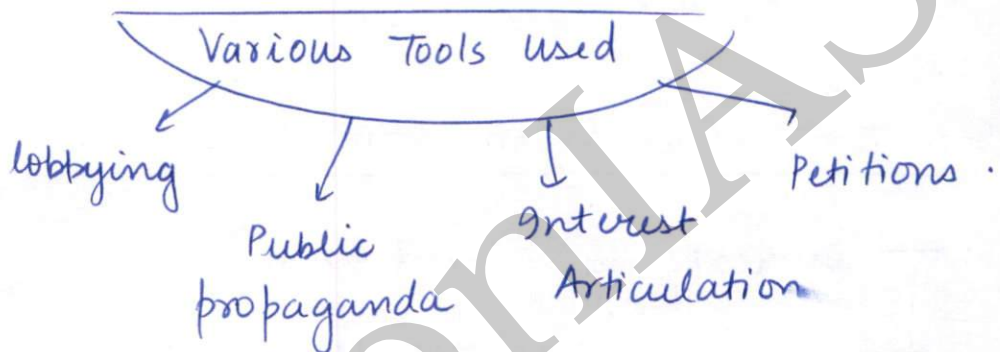
4.

हाल के वर्षों में, नागरिक समाज द्वारा सोशल मीडिया और डिजिटल लामबंदी का उपयोग दबाव की राजनीति के एक सशक्त माध्यम के रूप में उभरा है। नीति-निर्माण और लोकतांत्रिक जवाबदेही पर इसके प्रभाव का परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

In recent years, use of social media and digital mobilisation by civil society has emerged as a powerful form of pressure politics. Examine its impact on policymaking and democratic accountability. (Answer in 150 words) 10

उम्मीदवारों को इस कक्ष में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Pressure Groups refers to informal associations who work to influence policy making. Formed in line with Article-19(1)(c)



DIGITAL MOBILIZATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY

1) Greater use of social media

- (i) → Awareness programs
eg through Youtube videos.
- (ii) → Whatsapp chat groups. discussions
- (iii) → Greater Reach
↳ Base widened to rural areas too.

IMPACT OF THIS MOBILIZATION :-

1) on Policymaking

(i) → Citizen-Centric Governance

eg Farm Protests — utilized digital media — led to repeal of 3 farm laws. (2020)

(ii) → Environmentalism Upheld

eg Recent uproar on social media over — felling of Kanchara-Gachibowli forest in Telangana → led to SC attention.

2) on democratic Accountability

(i) → # Me Too movement led to greater safeguards for women.

(ii) → Transparency upheld

eg SC recent decision → to publish asset details of judges on website

Thus, Digital India's potential can be leveraged by civil society for Greater Reforms. 13

5. भारत में विकास संबंधी चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए कॉर्पोरेट सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व किस प्रकार एक व्यवसाय-प्रेरित समाधान के रूप में उभर रहा है? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)
- How is Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) emerging as a business-led solution for addressing development challenges in India? (Answer in 150 words)

10

उम्मीदवारों को इस क्षण में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Corporate Social Responsibility is provided in Section - 135 of Companies Act, 2013

⇒ It lays a provisions of 2% of average net profit by corporates for socio-economic development.

CSR Addressing development Challenges in India

1) Increased Expenditure on Health

eg Tata Memorial Hospitals provide affordable services to poor.

2) Climate Solutions

eg Adani Ltd. → CSR for Green Energy solutions in rural areas.

3) Educational Improvement

eg Reliance Foundation → Scholarships

4) Balanced development

↓
Inclusivity of rural and Urban areas

5) Water Needs

↳ Water harvesting structures in rural areas by Hindustan Unilever.

6) Fills the Governance Gap

↳ Complements the Schemes and programmes of Government like "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao"

Certain Limitations

1) Lack of Proper Enforcement

law followed only in letter not in spirit.

2) Economic Survey (2025) highlights lack of commitment on the part of corporates to fulfill responsibility.

Corporates must be guided by "Compassionate Capitalism" to fulfill CSR.

6.

चर्चा कीजिए कि भारत में जन परामर्श और जन सुनवाई जैसे तंत्र गवर्नेंस के परिणामों को कैसे प्रभावित करते हैं। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Discuss how mechanisms like public consultations and Jan Sunwais in India impact governance outcomes. (Answer in 150 words)

10

उम्मीदवारों को इस ह्रासिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Governance Structure in India is highly skewed in favour of a

Top to Bottom Approach

⇒ Need is to reform this structure

Via Mechanisms like

Public Consultation

Jan Sunwai

Public feedback.

IMPACT OF THESE MECHANISM

1) People led Governance Model

↳ leads to inclusivity and efficiency.

2) Greater Priority to Grassroot Concerns

eg People's day-to-day problems related to water supply, sanitation.

3) Citizen-Centric Governance upheld

eg Recently Government sought suggestions on DPDP Bill - 2023.

4) Upholds democratic decentralization

↳ through Greater Power to public.

5) Enhanced Outcomes

Better literacy

Greater Satisfaction

Government
- of the people
- for the people
- by the people

6) Many Avenues in digital Age

eg Websites like MyGov

Meri Panchayat

Can aid in public consultation.

"Governance must reach last mile and to last individual to be truly Inclusive".

7.

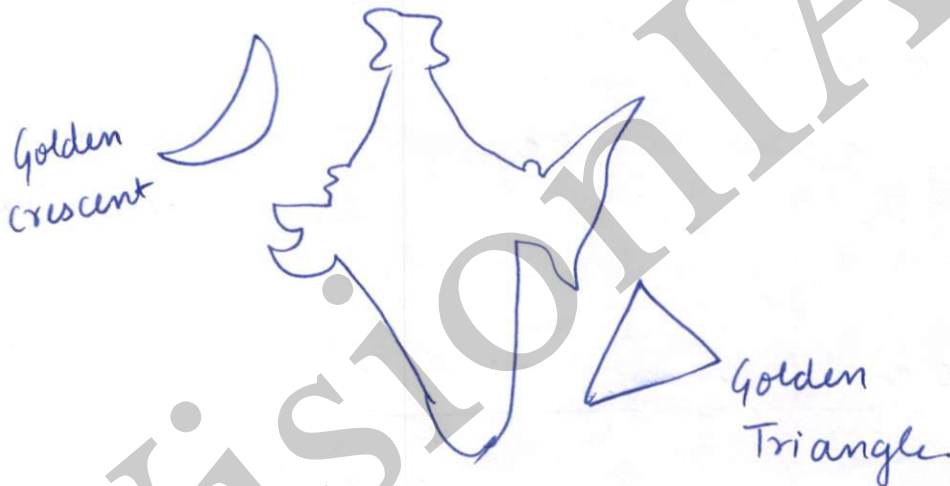
भारत में मादक द्रव्यों के दुरुपयोग की समस्या से निपटने में राष्ट्रीय मादक द्रव्य मांग न्यूनीकरण कार्य योजना और नशा मुक्त भारत अभियान कितने प्रभावी रहे हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

How effective have the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) and Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan been in addressing substance abuse in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10

उम्मीदवारों को इस छवि में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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India faces a huge problem of Drug Addiction. As per Narcotics Control Bureau → 14% Indians are drug addicted.

MAIN REASON



⇒ India's Central Position between these 2 drug zones.

IMPACT OF NAPDDR and
NASHA MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAN

↳ Mixed Results

1) Greater Rehabilitation efforts

in form of "Drug Rehab Centres"

2) Increased Awareness

about hazards of drug consumption

eg Through NCC, NSS campaigns.

3) Greater Surveillance

eg on borders → by BSF and
Narcotics Control Bureau.

4) Health Improvement

via Greater Medical Care.

Yet, Limitations

Drug Smuggling
persists

eg drug → using
drones from
Pakistan.

Inadequate
Rehab facilities

↳ Coercion leads
to mental and
physical agony

Therefore, Need is for having a
Collective front by People and Government
against menace of drug.

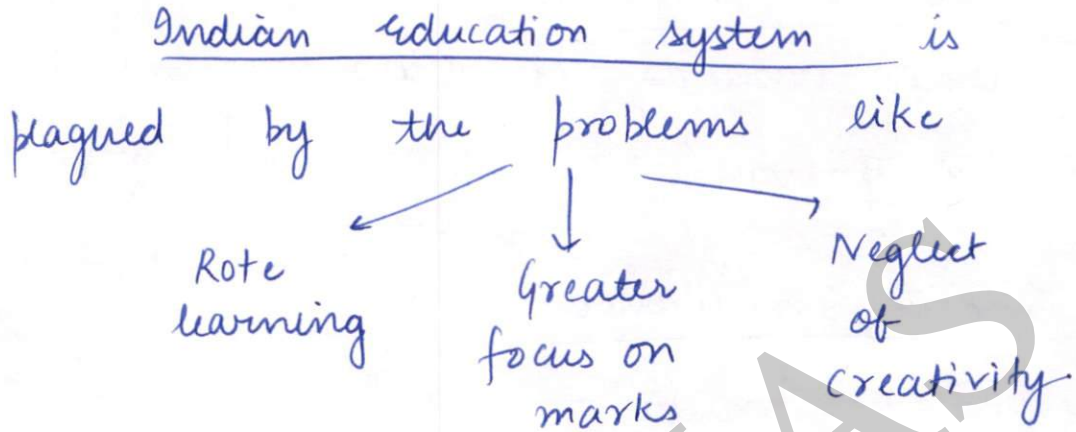
8.

भारत की बुनियादी शिक्षा प्रणाली में रटकर सीखने की प्रवृत्ति और रचनात्मकता की उपेक्षा, इसे आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस द्वारा संचालित हो रहे बाजारों के लिए पर्याप्त रूप से तैयार नहीं करती हैं। क्या आप इस मत से सहमत हैं? अपने तर्क से उत्तर की पुष्टि कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Rote learning and neglect of creativity in foundational education setup in India make it less ready for marketplaces that are now driven by Artificial Intelligence. Do you agree with this view? Substantiate your argument. (Answer in 150 words)

10

उम्मीदवारों को इस दृष्टि में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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IMPACT OF THIS STRUCTURE ÷

1) Unemployability

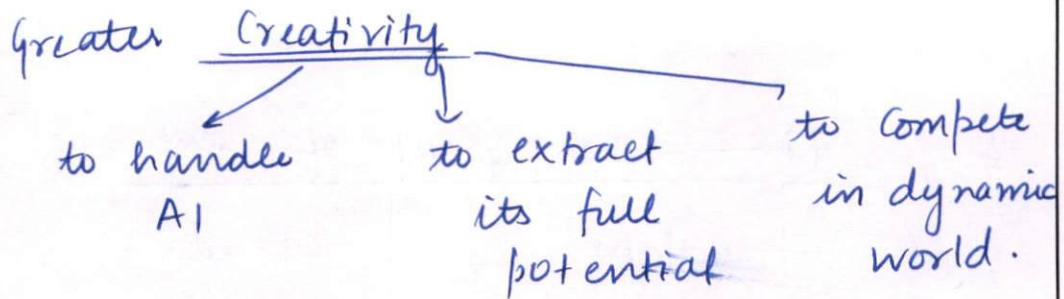
eg. 51% Graduates in India are unemployable (As per ILO).

2) Lack of Skills

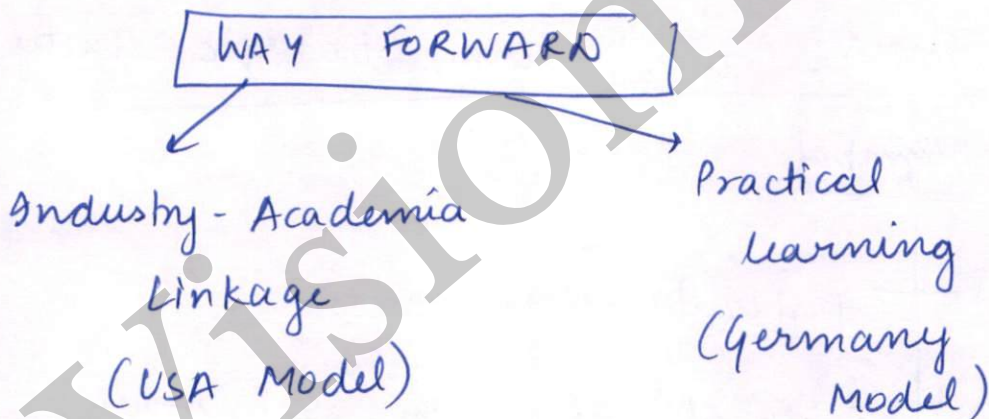
hampers the potential of rich demographic dividend.

3) Current Marketplaces → Technology-driven → It makes rote-learning obsolete.

4) Artificial Intelligence (AI) we require



5) Unemployment at 8% mainly due to lack of practical skills



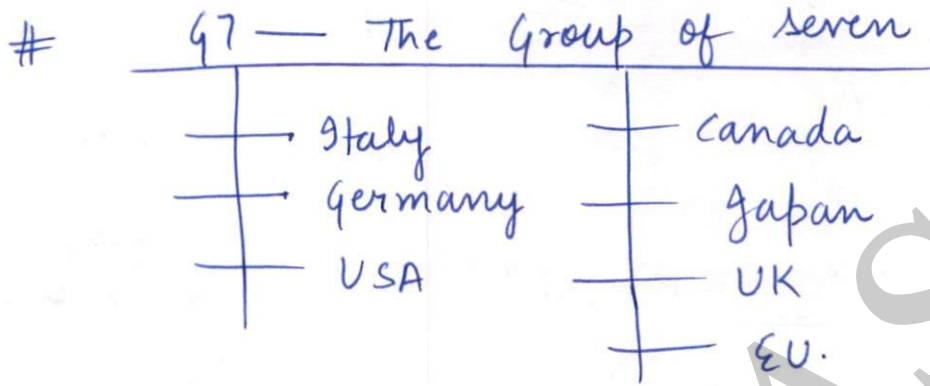
⇒ Need is for educational overhaul to make India's labour force future ready.

9.

G7 के पश्चिमी रणनीतिक एकता के प्रतीक से आंतरिक विरोधाभासों से भरे मंच के रूप में रूपांतरण का विश्लेषण कीजिए। भारत द्वारा अपने रणनीतिक हितों की पूर्ति हेतु इस बदलते परिदृश्य को किस प्रकार उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Analyze the transformation of the G7 from a symbol of Western strategic unity to a forum marked by internal contradictions. How should India navigate this changing dynamic to advance its strategic interests? (Answer in 150 words)

10



has transformed from

(I) Earlier a Western Strategic Unity
symbol

1) → fostered collectiveness.

2) → Global Rise in economy
was focused upon.

3) → Incorporated wider interests

(II) Today → a symbol of
Internal Contradictions.

1) USA vs Others

- ↳ Trade Wars.
- ↳ NATO support down.

2) Countries of Global South

are not meaningfully
included.

#

India Must Navigate As

1) Increased Bilateral meetings

2) Trade Connectivity

↳ Recent India - UK FTA.

3) Voice the concerns of Global South

"Leader of Global South"

4) Strategic Autonomy

G7 + Quad + SCO + BRICS.

Hence, India must leverage its
Soft Power Skills to advance its
strategic interests in G7.

10.

विकासशील देशों के विकास में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। इसके दृष्टिकोण से जुड़ी प्रमुख आलोचनाएं क्या हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Discuss the role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the development of developing countries. What are the key criticisms associated with its approach? (Answer in 150 words) 10

IMF was founded in 1945
through Bretton Woods Conference

ROLE OF IMF :-

1) Promotes developing Countries
Interests

eg Sri Lanka → was given economic
package in times of crisis.

2) SDR Currency Serves as a Global
Currency Reserve.

3) Consultations and Meetings to
incorporate feedback and concerns.

4) BOP Stabilization through short
term credit.

Yet IMF faces decreasing
relevance in today's time.

CRITICISM :-

1) West dominated Structure

eg IMF head → always from Europe.

2) Sidelines the Global South

Countries from Asia, Latin America and Africa lack voice in IMF.

3) Short term Packages without any long term Capital Improvement.

Way Forward

1) Greater Voice to Global South
↳ through greater IMF voting Quotas.

2) Diversify the position of head
↳ elect from other countries too.

In Current Geoeconomic Crisis
in form of Recession → IMF can play a crucial Role.

11.

103वें संविधान संशोधन अधिनियम, 2019 ने भारत में सकारात्मक कार्रवाई के सिद्धांत को एक नया आयाम दिया है। सामाजिक न्याय के व्यापक लक्ष्य के लिए इसके निहितार्थों का समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019 has introduced a new dimension to the principle of affirmative action in India. Critically examine its implications for the broader goal of social justice. (Answer in 250 words)

15

उम्मीदवारों को इस हिसाब में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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103rd constitutional Amendment introduced reservation (10%) for economically weaker sections [EWS] in public education and employment.

It draws its status from Article-15(4)
↓
state must provide special provisions for backward classes.

INTRODUCED A NEW DIMENSION ÷

1) earlier status limited to social backwardness

→ SC
→ ST
→ OBC.

2) Introduced economic status as a determinant for backwardness.

3) Provides an avenue for earlier excluded sections.

ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE BROADER GOAL OF SOCIAL EQUITY :-

⇒ POSITIVE IMPLICATIONS :-

- 1) Promotes substantive Equality by incorporating hitherto left behind.
- 2) Aids in Poverty elimination
eg 11% are still multidimensionally poor.
- 3) upholds True Justice as expounded by Preamble → Social
→ Economic.
- 4) Adheres to Welfare Policy as articulated in DPSP Article - 38
- 5) In line with Gandhi's Talisman
↳ welfare of most backward.
- 6) sense of satisfaction who felt alienated by greater SC/ST reservation.

Yet
⇒ Challenges :-

- 1) Violation of Reservation Cap of 50%
set in Indira Sawhney Case (1992)
- 2) Lack of standardization for determining
economic backwardness.
- 3) Leads to frivolous and duplication
eg NSSO highlighted issue of fake
EWS certificates.
- 4) Reservation Not the Panacea for wider
problems

As per BR Ambedkar → Economic
and educational empowerment is
the prerequisite to attain full
potential of Reservation benefits.

12.

जिला योजना समिति की परिकल्पना जमीनी स्तर पर नियोजन को सशक्त बनाने के एक प्रमुख साधन के रूप में की गई थी। यह इस लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में कितनी सफल रही है? जिला योजना समितियों द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए तथा उन्हें अधिक प्रभावी बनाने के उपाय सुझाइए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The District Planning Committee (DPC) was envisioned as a key instrument to strengthen grassroots-level planning. How far has it succeeded in achieving this goal? Discuss the challenges faced by DPCs and suggest measures to make them more effective. (Answer in 250 words) 15

District Planning Committee forms the grassroot machinery to enable "Bottom to Top" Approach to Planning and Governance.

It was introduced as a provision by 73rd CAA, 1992 → Part - IX of the Constitution.

ROLE PLAYED BY DPC ÷

1) Public Participation achieved through:

- opinions on draft plans
- suggestions for improvement.

2) Addresses the Grassroot Needs

like health, education, sanitation, water supply.

उम्मीदवारों को इस कृपिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

3) District as the basic unit of planning

(As Suggested by ABHOK MEHTA
COMMITTEE)

4) In line with DPSP Article-40

↓
local self governance and
planning.

Despite the great potential,

CHALLENGES FACED BY DPCs ÷

1) Lack of Infrastructure

eg only 30% internet penetration
(as per NSSO)

↳ This hinders the digitization of DPCs

2) Bureaucratic Apathy (as said by 2nd ARC)

↳ Towards people's day to day
problems.

↳ Treat DPC plans → as a formality.

3) Lack of Capacity Building

eg only 47% of sarpanchs/planners

have formal training [MAARG-ORG survey]

- 4) Public Awareness lacking
↳ People not aware about such forums.

In this light,

MEASURES NEEDED ÷

- 1) Greater Infrastructural development
[eg] digitized APC office and buildings

- 2) Promote Technology
[eg] People's suggestions through MyGov like platform.

- 3) Devolve 3Fs
↳ Funds Functions Functionaries.

Hence, all these can help ensure
[Planning] happens from bottom to
top → to achieve real and
effective Decentralized Governance

13.

संविधान के अनुच्छेद 293 के तहत राज्यों की उधार लेने की शक्तियों पर लगाए गए प्रतिबंध, यद्यपि संवैधानिक रूप से वैध हैं, लेकिन ये राज्यों की राजकोषीय स्वायत्तता को बाधित कर सकते हैं और सहकारी संघवाद को क्षति पहुंचा सकते हैं। हालिया घटनाक्रमों के आलोक में विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The restrictions imposed under Article 293 of the Constitution on State borrowing powers, though constitutionally valid, may hinder fiscal autonomy of States and disrupt cooperative federalism. Discuss in the light of recent developments. (Answer in 250 words) 15

India's Federal status gets reflected in Article-1 → India i.e. Bharat shall be a "Union of states"

This federalism goes into the fiscal sphere too.

- # Article-293 → imposes certain restrictions on the borrowing powers:
- (i) → States cannot borrow until they get centre's approval.
 - (ii) → Restriction of external borrowings by states.

Constitutionally Valid → as they seek to promote ┌ fiscal prudence
└ oversight.

As India is "Quasi federal" with a centre bias [KC Wheare]

But, It leads to certain complexities for Indian federalism.

It Hinders Fiscal Autonomy of States as :-

1) Nearly 60% of the spending happens at state level → in

- health
- education.
- police etc.

2) Yet states heavily dependent on

- Finance Commission devolution [41% of total]
- Central Grants and Aid.

3) This issue greater exacerbated by GST rolling out — limiting the taxation powers of states.

It disrupts cooperative federalism

1) Leads of Confrontational federalism

2) Centre-state disputes on rise

eg Opposition ruled states allege Centre's discrimination towards them.

3) Greater Centralization Tendencies

violate "Principle of subsidiarity" (2nd ARC)

→ Centre not willing to devolve to states and further states not willing to devolve to local bodies.

Way Forward

i) Promote fiscal federalism

- Inclusive GST Council Working
- flexible Grants and aids.

ii) Recent developments → eg Tussle for funds between Tamil Nadu and Centre.

→ highlights the need to have the approach of "SABKA .SATH, SABKA VIKAS, SABKA VISHWAS, SABKA PRAYAS"

14.

लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम के तहत चुनाव लड़ने के अधिकार और चुनावी नैतिकता बनाए रखने की आवश्यकता के बीच के तनाव का परीक्षण कीजिए। क्या दोषसिद्ध अपराधियों पर आजीवन प्रतिबंध लगाया जाना चाहिए? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Examine the tension between the right to contest elections and the need to uphold electoral ethics under the Representation of the People Act. Should there be a lifetime ban on convicted criminals? (Answer in 250 words)

उम्मीदवारों को इस इलाक़े में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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15

Free and fair elections are the sine qua non of a democracy.

Representation of People Acts → 1950 and 1951 ⇒ provide provisions for electoral ethics as well as right to contest elections.

RIGHT TO CONTEST ELECTIONS

- To every citizen of India
- Must be compliant with conditions laid down in RPA, 1950.

ELECTORAL ETHICS

free and fair elections

level playing field

diminish role of money and muscle power.

But a tension emerges, if we try to uphold both.

TENSION Between Right to Contest and need to Uphold electoral ethics :-

- 1) Money and Muscle power gets promoted if everyone allowed to contest.
- 2) Criminal and frivolous elements may take advantage over others.

In this light ; Two Arguments

⊕ LIFETIME BAN ON CONVICTED CRIMINALS :-

- 1) Presents a Great Option to deter the Criminalization of politics.
- 2) Favors Genuine Candidates → to contest and win.
- 3) Promotes better Representation for people.
- 4) Electoral Malpractices will be kept at bay.

Yet, True Spirit of democracy faces a challenge by adopting this option.

② Need is for a BALANCED APPROACH :-

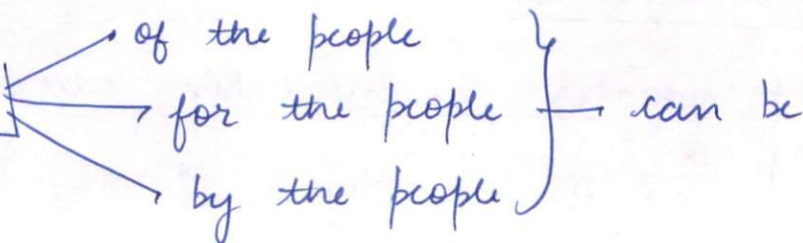
1) Lily Thomas case (2013) → Immediate suspension of a convicted candidate
⊕

cannot contest for 6 years after conviction.

2) Law Commission recommends restricting the criminals participation.

3) ECI recommends → proper disclosure of criminal background.

Hence, a lifetime ban will not be an adequate solution.

Government  can be

ensured through proper electoral disclosures and scrutiny.

15.

2015 में शुरू की गई बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ योजना घटते बाल लिंगानुपात को सुधारने और बालिकाओं को सशक्त बनाने में किस हद तक सफल रही है? जमीनी स्तर पर इसकी प्रभावशीलता बढ़ाने के लिए उपाय सुझाइए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

To what extent has the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme, launched in 2015, succeeded in addressing the declining child sex ratio and empowering the girl child? Suggest measures to enhance its impact at the grassroots level. (Answer in 250 words) 15

"The most effective way for development
is Women empowerment"

— Kofi Annan.

It was in this light that, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme was launched in 2015.

SUCCESS ACHIEVED ÷

1) Societal Perception changed

daughter not a burden → but an asset.

[eg] Awareness by NGOs like "Goonj"

2) Empowerment of Girl child

i) → Greater enrolment in education

[eg] As per MOE, More Girls
Opting for STEM rather than
arts.

(ii) → Improved health Indicators
through ICDS, Aanganwadi, POSHAN.

(iii) → Financial security
"Sukanya Samriddhi bank accounts"

⇒ Yet ; Issues Remain ÷

1) India lacks Women Safety

eg 80 rapes everyday on an average
(as per NCRB-2022)

2) labour force participation

still low at 37.5% (as per PLFS)

3) son-Meta Preference (as referred by
↳ giving rise to Economic Survey)

female infanticides and unwanted
girls.

4) Sex Ratio still dismal

↳ Delhi → 878 / 1000 males
↳ Haryana → 864

5) child Marriage Prevalent

eg As per UNDP → 1 in 3 girl married before 18.

MEASURES NEEDED ÷

- (1) → Leverage NGO support for public awareness
eg "Forum for Women"
- (2) → Gender Inclusion Fund (NEP-2020)
↳ must be fully utilized.
- (3) → Women Safety must be ensured
eg → One-Stop Centres
 ↳ SHC-Box

" A Nation cannot succeed by sidelining girls ; as a Bird cannot fly on only one wing "

— Swami Vivekananda

16.

स्वयं-सहायता समूह ग्रामीण भारत में सामाजिक-आर्थिक कायाकल्प के चालक के रूप में उभर रहे हैं। उनकी पहुंच और प्रभावशीलता को बढ़ाने में सरकार की भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)
Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are emerging as vehicles of socio-economic transformation in rural India. Examine the role of government in scaling their reach and effectiveness. (Answer in 250 words)

15

Self - Help Groups have acted as a game changer for rural India particularly rural women.

SHGs as Vehicles of Socio - Economic Transformation ÷

1) Economic Empowerment

[eg] SHG in Bhadrachalam Telangana pool resources and sell biscuits made from millets.

2) Women led development as SHGs are generally led by rural women.

3) Provide services to Greater society

[eg] NAMO - Drone Didi Scheme → SHG women provide drone services to farmers.

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्शिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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4) Entrepreneurial development

eg Lijjat Papad Model.

5) Capacity Building

eg SEWA (self employed Women's Association) provides vocational training to rural women.

- Certain Challenges
- 1) Credit Crunch
 - ↳ lack of adequate credit availability
 - ↳ dependent on informal sources for loans.
 - 2) Limited Reach

eg SHGs normally ^{have} 10-15 women
 - 3) Lack adequate Capabilities

like Skills, digital literacy

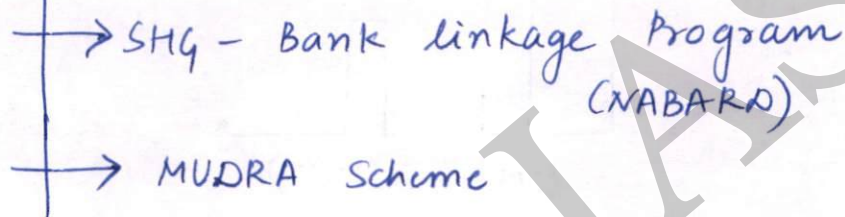
eg only 10% digital literacy in rural India (NSSO survey).

ROLE GOVERNMENT CAN PLAY :-

1) Greater support

eg Lakpati didi Scheme to turn SHG women income above 1 lakh.

2) Credit Availability



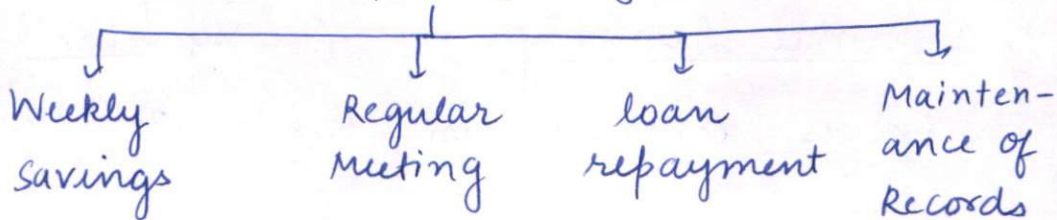
3) Capacity Building

eg leveraging PM Kaushal Vikas Yojna.

SUCCESSFUL MODEL :-

Dholpur SHG (Rajasthan)

4 Principles of Rajeevika



Such models can be upscaled at national level.

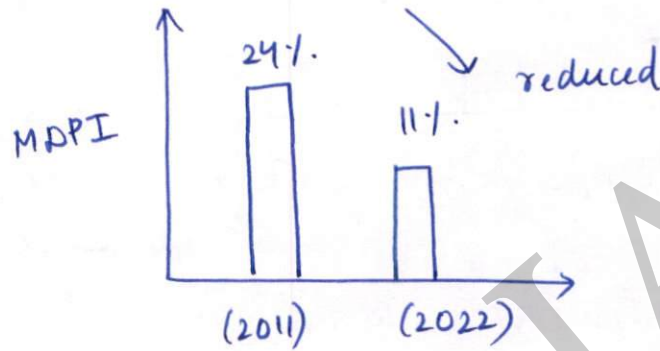
17.

आर्थिक संवृद्धि के बावजूद, भारत में बहुआयामी निर्धनता बनी हुई है। इसके अंतर्निहित कारणों का विश्लेषण कीजिए और उन्हें दूर करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा किए गए उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Despite economic growth, multidimensional poverty continues to persist in India. Analyse the underlying causes and discuss the measures taken by the government to address them. (Answer in 250 words)

15

As per NITI Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index (2024)



→ Yet 11% of 145 Crore population is still a Great number.

CAUSES OF MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY

- 1) Unemployment → prevalence is high (6%)
- 2) Informal economy → Nearly 90% workers engaged in informal jobs.
- 3) High Out of Pocket Health expenditure
↳ $\frac{1}{6}$ th of Poverty due to this (as per WHO)

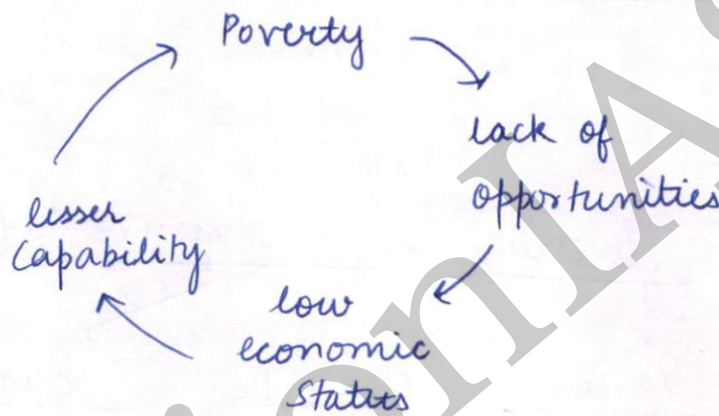
4) Per Capita GDP low $\rightarrow \frac{\text{GDP}}{\text{Population}}$.

\rightarrow GDP is low

\rightarrow Population is high \rightarrow leads to lower per-capita.

5) Intergenerational Poverty persists

"Vicious cycle" goes on.



MEASURES TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT :-

1) PM Jan Arogya Yojna

\hookrightarrow 5 lakh health insurance

2) Employment Incentive Scheme

\hookrightarrow recently launched to support employment generation in manufacturing.

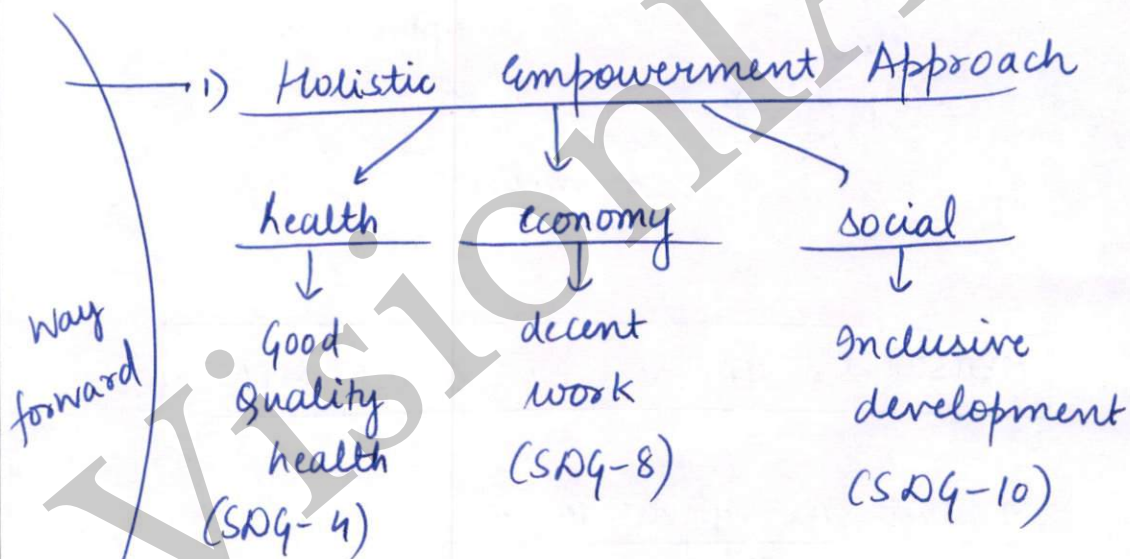
3) Formalization of economy

eg Registration of workers on { E-Shram Portal }

4) SMILE Scheme for rehabilitation of beggars.

5) slum Redevelopment

eg Dharavi Project



⇒ " A True Measure of a Nation is How it treats its most vulnerable" — Mahatma Gandhi

⇒ Hence, Need to empower the most vulnerable poor through proactive action.

18.

भारत खाद्य अधिशेष और पोषण की कमी संबंधी विरोधाभास का सामना कर रहा है। इस विरोधाभास के पीछे निहित संरचनात्मक कारणों का विश्लेषण कीजिए और सुधार हेतु रणनीतियों का सुझाव दीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

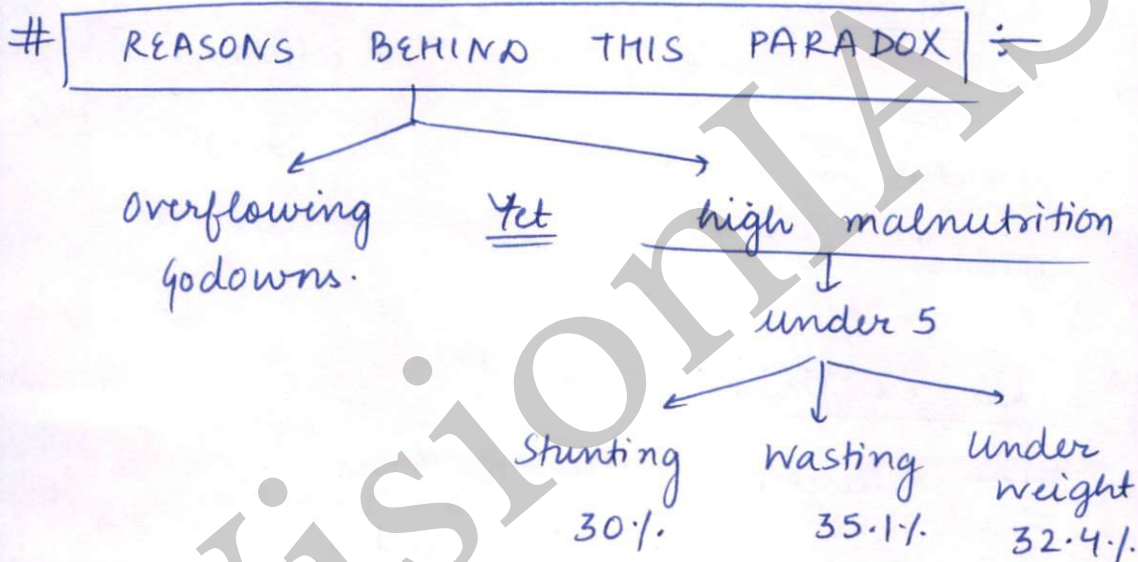
India faces a paradox of food surplus and nutritional deficit. Analyse the structural reasons behind this paradox and suggest reform strategies. (Answer in 250 words)

15

उम्मीदवारों को इस हिसाब में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

India is 2nd largest agricultural producer in the world.

Yet India ranks 105th / 180 countries in Global Hunger Index (2024)



① Food Security vs Nutritional Security are 2 different things.

Food Security focuses on availability of food

Nutritional Security focuses on quality of food.

(2) Healthy diet Unaccessible

eg FAO → nearly 75% Indians cannot afford a healthy diet

(3) Lack of diversity

↳ Main focus on Cereals.



Main Reason →

MSP Skewed Crop Production

↳ Greater focus on Grains and Cereals while neglecting pulses, millets etc.

(4) PDS Inefficiencies

↳ Inclusion / Exclusion errors.

↳ Lack of Quality food

↳ Gets rotten.

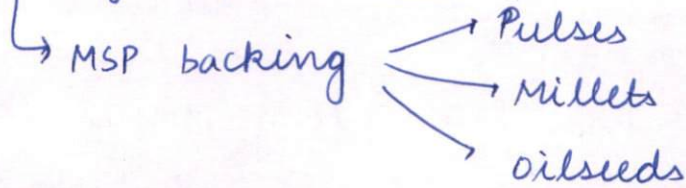
(5) Buffer Mismanagement → FCI

↳ eg FAO → nearly 40% food gets wasted due to pest attack in Godowns.

⇒ In this context ,

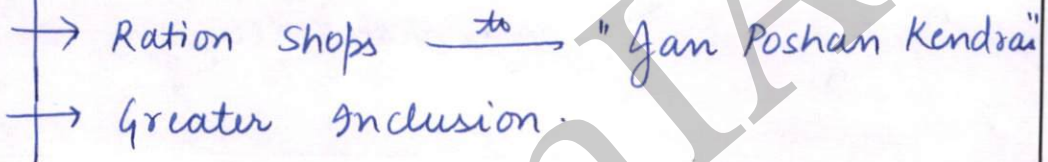
REFORM STRATEGIES ARE AS FOLLOWS :-

1) Diversify Agriculture



(As per SANJAY AGGARWAL
COMMITTEE)

2) PDS Reforms



3) Greater Awareness

eg ICMR Guidelines about "healthy plate"

4) Economic Survey (2025)

↳ recommended taxation over
Ultra Processed foods.

Greater Need to have a
Shift from { Thalonomics }
↓ To
{ Cost of a Healthy diet }

19.

श्रीलंका और मालदीव में आर्थिक संकटों के दौरान भारत द्वारा समय पर की गई कार्रवाई उसकी "नेबरहुड फर्स्ट" की नीति की सक्रियता को दर्शाती है। परीक्षण कीजिए कि भारतीय सहायता ने इन देशों के साथ द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को कैसे प्रभावित किया है। हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र में सतत आर्थिक सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए आगे क्या कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

India's timely response during the economic crises in Sri Lanka and the Maldives reflects its "Neighbourhood First" policy in action. Examine how Indian aid has impacted bilateral ties with these nations. What steps can further be taken to promote sustainable economic cooperation in the Indian Ocean region? (Answer in 250 words)

15

India has from long times followed "Neighbourhood First Policy" whether it be through Gujral doctrine or "Extended Neighbourhood"

- Act East Policy
- Act West Policy.

INDIA'S TIMELY RESPONSE DURING ECONOMIC CRISIS

1) Helped Sri Lanka by extending a credit line of support, which led to their economic revival.

2) Helped Maldives

["India remains first responder for Maldives in times of need"]

PM Modi said.

IMPACT OF THIS AID ON BILATERAL TIES ÷

1) Reinvigorated the declining relation

eg India helped Maldives—despite its "India out" Campaign. — This goodwill led to improvement in ties.

2) Promoted Solidarity

eg Sri Lanka hosts many Tamil diaspora. — India's aid promotes their interests too.

3) Helps Balance out China's Influence to some extent.

Yet Challenges Remain ÷

1) → India seen as "Big Brother Bully" by some eg Nepal.

2) → China's Influence on Rise

→ "debt trap diplomacy"

→ "Chequebook diplomacy".

MORE STEPS NEEDED to promote Sustainable Economic Cooperation in Indian Ocean Region ÷

1) Trade Promotion

eg Revival of SAFTA
(South Asian Free Trade Agreement)

2) Infrastructure Building

eg Tourism infra. in Maldives.

3) { IORA → Indian Ocean Regional Association
IPEF → Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.
→ Must be leveraged.

4) India as leader of Global South

eg Hosted Voice of Global South Summit (VOGS) — 2023.

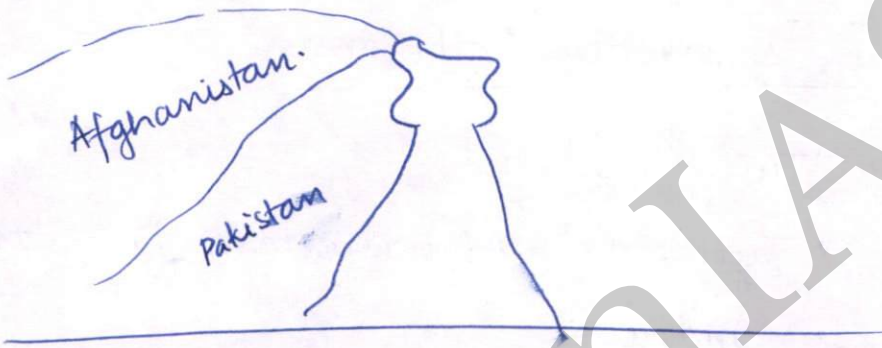
India's SAGAR Policy (Security and Growth for All in the Region) Must Remain the Guiding light.

20.

महाद्वीपीय संपर्क (कनेक्टिविटी) और मध्य एशिया तक पहुंच के संदर्भ में भारत के लिए अफगानिस्तान के भू-रणनीतिक महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। 2021 के बाद बदले राजनीतिक परिदृश्य ने भारत की कनेक्टिविटी और ऊर्जा गलियारे की महत्वाकांक्षाओं को किस प्रकार प्रभावित किया है? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Discuss the geostrategic significance of Afghanistan for India in the context of continental connectivity and access to Central Asia. How has the altered political landscape post-2021 affected India's connectivity and energy corridor ambitions? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Afghanistan is uniquely located in a central position between India and central Asia.



GEOSTRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF AFGHANISTAN FOR INDIA :-

1) Connectivity to Central Asia

eg Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan.

2) Neighbourhood First Policy

Afghanistan is a cornerstone of this policy.

3) Act West Policy → achieved through connectivity via Afghanistan.

उम्मीदवारों को इस हिसाब में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

4) As a buffer Against Pakistan's ambitions.

5) Crucial Component of fulfilling India's vision as leader of Global South

6) Market for Indian exports

7) Energy security Ambitions

eg TAPI Pipeline

↳ Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India

POLITICAL LANDSCAPE POST-2021

→ sudden withdrawal of US.

→ Occupation by Taliban.

IMPACT ON INDIA'S AMBITIONS ÷

1) Energy Corridor Ambition impacted

eg TAPI Pipeline affected due to Pakistan's withdrawal.

2) Connectivity Ambitions suffer

eg Pakistan declined land route for India's aid to Pakistan.

3) Islamic fundamentalism on rise.

↳ fuels terrorism.

4) Trilateral like — China

⊕ Pakistan

⊕ Afghanistan

Imposes a threat to Indian
Sovereignty.

Yet

Bright Spots Remain

→ India regularly holds bilateral talks

→ India recognized Taliban leadership

But India stresses on Gender Equality and human rights.

Therefore through "SMART diplomacy"

India can foster relationship with Afghanistan.

SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

AL

VisionIAS