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Name of Candidate : PARAS GARG

Registration Number: 420571

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Section-A

① Indian Ocean Region as a pivot to India's Growth.

Indian Ocean Region consists of West Asian countries, Arabian countries, East African countries in the west, India, Pakistan and other South Asian countries in the north and ASEAN countries and Australia in the east. India's

95% trade of goods by volume, more than 80% oil imports come through Indian Ocean. Monsoon winds originating

in Indian Ocean provide more than 70% of total rainfall in the country.

From security point of view also, Indian ocean is of paramount importance for us.

①

From the above facts, it seems that truly Indian Ocean is a pivot to India's growth. In this essay we will try to analyse how Indian Ocean region is important for the growth and development of the country.

For energy security, Indian ocean is the jugular vein of India. If the sea lines in this ocean are not safe and secure it can impact our energy security. Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, U.A.E., Iran are the highest ^{exporters} ~~importers~~ of oil to India. Any instability in these countries affect India negatively. Gulf war in 1990's and recent sanctions of

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LISA on Iran and subsequent instability in the Persian Gulf is a case in point. Indeed the stability of Indian Ocean region is of paramount importance for India's growth.

For the trade, again Indian ocean is extremely important. India has \$ 80 billion with ASEAN countries, \$ 70 billion trade with Africa and similarly with other countries of Indian ocean region. Most of this trade takes place through sea route. With South Asia becoming the growth pole of the world and India's increasing focus on trade this will only rise in future. Moreover with recent decrease in demand domestically, India is focussing

an exports to fuel its growth. All these make this Indian ocean region as a pivot to India's growth.

For economic growth today, the manufacturing of electronic components which is the backbone of upcoming 4th Industrial revolution, is extremely important. For this the metals such as Nickel, copper, Zinc etc are important raw materials. Recently, India got the rights from International Seabed Authority to mine poly metallic nodules in 75000 km² area in Central Indian ocean. This can give a fillip to electronics manufacturing in India and India can come on the driving seat of this 4th Industrial revolution.

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Monsoons of Indian Oceans provides water for the Kharif crops in India. With only 35% of agricultural land under some form of irrigation this becomes even more important. Moreover it provides water to peninsular rivers which are the life-line of South India. Thus it is because of Indian ocean that agriculture provides direct employment to 43% of total workforce in the country.

For India's water needs and declining quality water desalination plants in the Indian ocean look promising. For example during the recent water stress situation in Chennai it were desalination plants that helped in fulfilling water demand in this megacity.

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Rising sea levels in the Indian ocean are also concern for India. India's many big cities such as Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Vishakhapatnam, Ahmedabad lie close to the coast. Any rise in water levels in Indian ocean can affect these cities and thereby India as a whole. Submergence of other smaller nation countries such as Maldives, Sri-Lanka etc can trigger environment related migration which no country is ready for. Thus the stability of this Indian ocean region is pertinent not only for India but also for world.

Fisheries in India, constitute 4 million people and it contribute 1% of our GDP and 10% of our exports.

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This sector also depends on Indian ocean.

India has huge diaspora presence in Indian ocean region countries such as in South Africa, Mauritius, Arabian countries, ASEAN countries and in Australia. They strengthen our relations with these countries and also provide remittances. Their security is also of paramount importance for us. For instance, India was the biggest receiver of remittances in the world in 2017-18.

This region is also important for the security of the country. Pirates of Somalia affect our trade. Any instability affect our oil trade. India's one of the biggest terrorist attack, the

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Mumbai attack of 2008 was a result of security breach in Indian ocean only. China's string of pearls and terrorists from Pakistan can actually reverse the growth of India. Therefore the security in this region and coordination with the countries in this region is imminent for our growth.

INDC's is determined to move towards India as a part of its renewable sources of energy. Some of these sources such as wind energy, thermal wave energy, tidal energy can be come from Indian ocean. India can utilise its 7500 km long coastline for extracting wind energy from ocean to land winds which are consistent.

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Extraction of coal bed methane from the continental shelf along India's coastline is other source of energy.

Thus Indian ocean is pivotal for clean energy security of country and thus for sustainable growth.

Many tourist destinations are also coming along the coast. Goa receives highest number of foreign tourists and is a source of foreign reserves for the country. This has been made possible by the Indian ocean.

From the above scenarios it is evidently clear that, Indian ocean region with Indian Ocean at centre is a pivot for India's growth.

We have taken many steps in recognition of this as well.

India has signed logistics ~~and~~ agreement with Singapore, LEMOA with USA. These can help India in protecting the sea lines of communication in the Indian ocean. India has also built Chabahar port in Iran, a port in Oman has been taken on lease. This can help India in securing its oil and gas import from these countries. Other steps include SAGAR (Security and Growth for all in the region), IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association), BIMSTEC, Indo-Pacific Strategy of India for rule based order in Indian Ocean. FTA with ASEAN countries

is already there and talks of RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) are under way.

In this way India recognises the importance of Indian ocean region as a pivot to India's growth and has taken many steps regarding that. Even the world recognises that Atlantic was the past, Pacific is the present and Indian ocean will be the future. Thus India should maintain its primacy in the region to secure its energy, security, economic and ecological interests.

Section-B

2) Foundation of New-India lies in Rural Upliftment

From the ramparts of Red Fort in Delhi, Prime Minister spoke about our collective aim of making a New India free from poverty and full of prosperity. But just 4 months after National Capital was choked in air pollution due to stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana. A few weeks later, lakhs of farmers marched in Delhi and Mumbai to address the agricultural distress. Farmer suicides still rock the country.

A country where 65% of its population live in rural areas

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cannot think of a New India without rural upliftment. Thus it is ~~amply clear~~ that ^{the} Foundation of a New India lies in Rural Upliftment.

In this essay we will try to analyse what we think of a New-India and how the foundation lies in rural upliftment.

New India must be healthy. India's Maternal mortality rate is 167 per lakh population which is among the highest in the world. Similar is its IMR and other health indicators. Much of it is due to non-institutional deliveries in

rural areas. Thus improved health facilities in rural areas are needed to make India healthy.

Grass Root Democracy and strict enforcement of fundamental rights is a component of New India. Even today Khap Panchayats are prevalent in rural areas which restricts the choice of individuals and violate their fundamental rights by the use of violence. Our Gram Panchayats get most of their funds from state government and collect only 5% of the taxes. Thus rural upliftment is the foundation of New-India.

43% of the work force of India is directly involved in agriculture

But agricultural growth rate is very slow. This population creates demand for the manufacturing products and services. Thus for India to grow, agriculture must be in right shape. Therefore foundation of a high growing Indian economy lies in rural upliftment.

New India must be prosperous. But most of the poor live in rural India. They migrate to urban cities and sometimes contribute to urban slums. Thus to remove poverty from entire country, rural incomes must be increased and poverty in rural areas must be decreased. Currently more than 50%.

rural households have more debt on them than their annual income.

Therefore the beginning of reducing poverty must take place from rural areas themselves.

Mostly the population in rural areas is employed in agriculture. This leads to the problem of disguised unemployment and lower per capita income. At the same time industries face deficit of skilled workforce. Therefore rural India must be skilled which can make India's manufacturing sector's contribution in GDP to more than 25%. Therefore foundation of New-India lies in rural upliftment.

New India should be ethical. But it is in rural areas that there is more spread of patriarchal mindset. Many times migration of these people to urban areas cause problems such as crimes against women etc. Therefore education must be provided to each and every child in rural areas. Only then can entire India will be ethical.

New India must not have the menace of child labour and each child should be nutritious. To achieve this we must reduce child labour from rural areas where it is maximum in fields, domestic work etc. Supply

of adequate amount of food is also necessary. Sanitation must be improved. Thus foundation of a child friendly India lies in rural upliftment.

Literacy levels in India were 74% in 2011 census. with huge rural - urban disparity. To make India a knowledge economy and digitally empowered society education is must. Moreover the usage of Internet in rural areas is significantly lesser as compared to urban areas. Thus this needs to be corrected to make a new - India which is literate and digital.

Environment friendliness must be a part of new-India. Agriculture accounts for 37% of our carbon emissions. Chemical fertilizers used in it pollutes water. Stubble burning cause air pollution in both urban and rural areas. Ground-water tables are declining in Punjab, Haryana mostly because of wrong agricultural practices which extract huge amount of water. This can cause desertification of land.

Clearance of forests, grasslands for agriculture purposes is another issue which leads to environmental degradation. This also leads to human wildlife conflicts by which both human and animals lives are lost.

All this happens because of overdependence on agriculture in rural areas and poverty. Less awareness and knowledge about scientific methods of agriculture is another reason. Therefore rural upliftment by improving education, agricultural extension services, irrigation facilities, awareness of suitable agro-climatic conditions based agriculture is needed. Only then can the goal of a pollution free and environment friendly India can be achieved.

From the above examples it is clear that the foundation of a New-India lies in rural upliftment. This is a reflection of a need towards working

for a better rural India. Indian Government has taken many steps for the rural ~~co~~ upliftment recognising its needs.

Soil Health Card scheme was launched to educate farmers on the optimum use of inputs such as seeds and fertilizers. This can improve soil fertility as well as ~~it~~ can reduce the cost of agriculture.

Pradhana Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana and PM Fasal Bima Yojana are other steps to improve the output of agriculture and protect farmers by insurance facilities.

To improve the rural incomes National Rural Employment

Guarantee Act (NREGA)-2005 was passed to give 100 days of employment to 1 member of each rural household. It is due to such Acts only that India has pulled 27 crore ~~pro~~ people from multi-dimensional poverty in 10 years from 2005-06 to 2015-16. Most of such reduction is in rural areas. To further augment the incomes in rural areas PM-KISAN Yojana has been started to give Rs. 6000 per annum to all the agricultural households in the country.

To improve health in rural areas ~~22000~~ 1.5 lakh primary health centres will be converted into health and wellness centres to provide comprehensive primary health care including

vaccination and pre natal care. Anganwadis and Asha workers regularly work for the nutrition needs of children and pregnant women.

Although the steps are in right direction we need to expedite this upliftment. Moreover further steps such as agriculture marketing reforms, organic farming, promotion of allied sectors such as dairy and animal rearing should be taken. Rural Mission should be completed to improve rural infrastructure. Special focus on the education and health of women is needed as well.

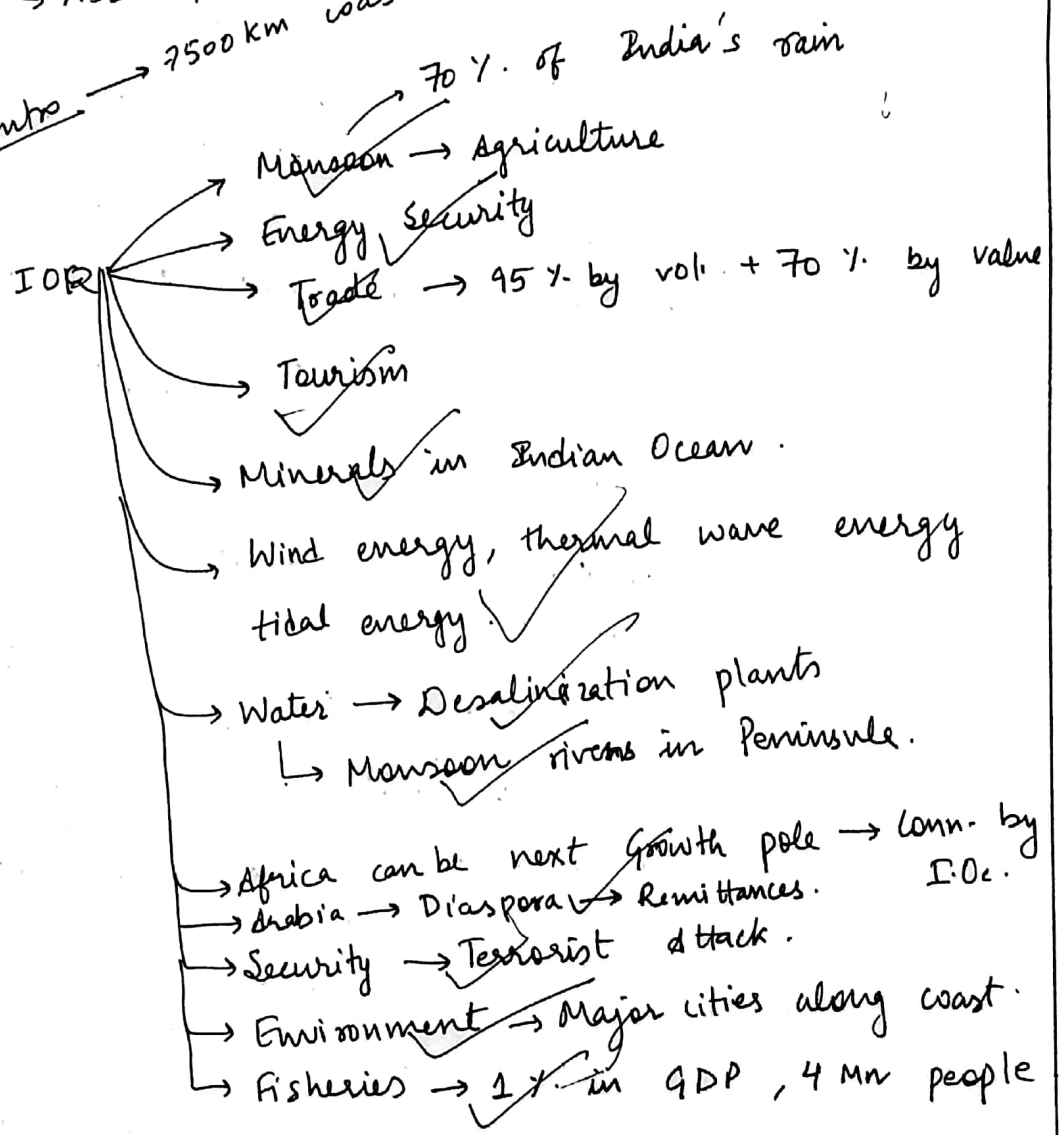
We must take all possible

measures and long term planning
and management for rural
upliftment. Only then can a
strong foundation for New India
be laid.

Indian Oc. Region as a pivot to India's Growth.

- Arabian countries
- East African countries
- ASEAN, Australia

Intro → 7500 km coastline

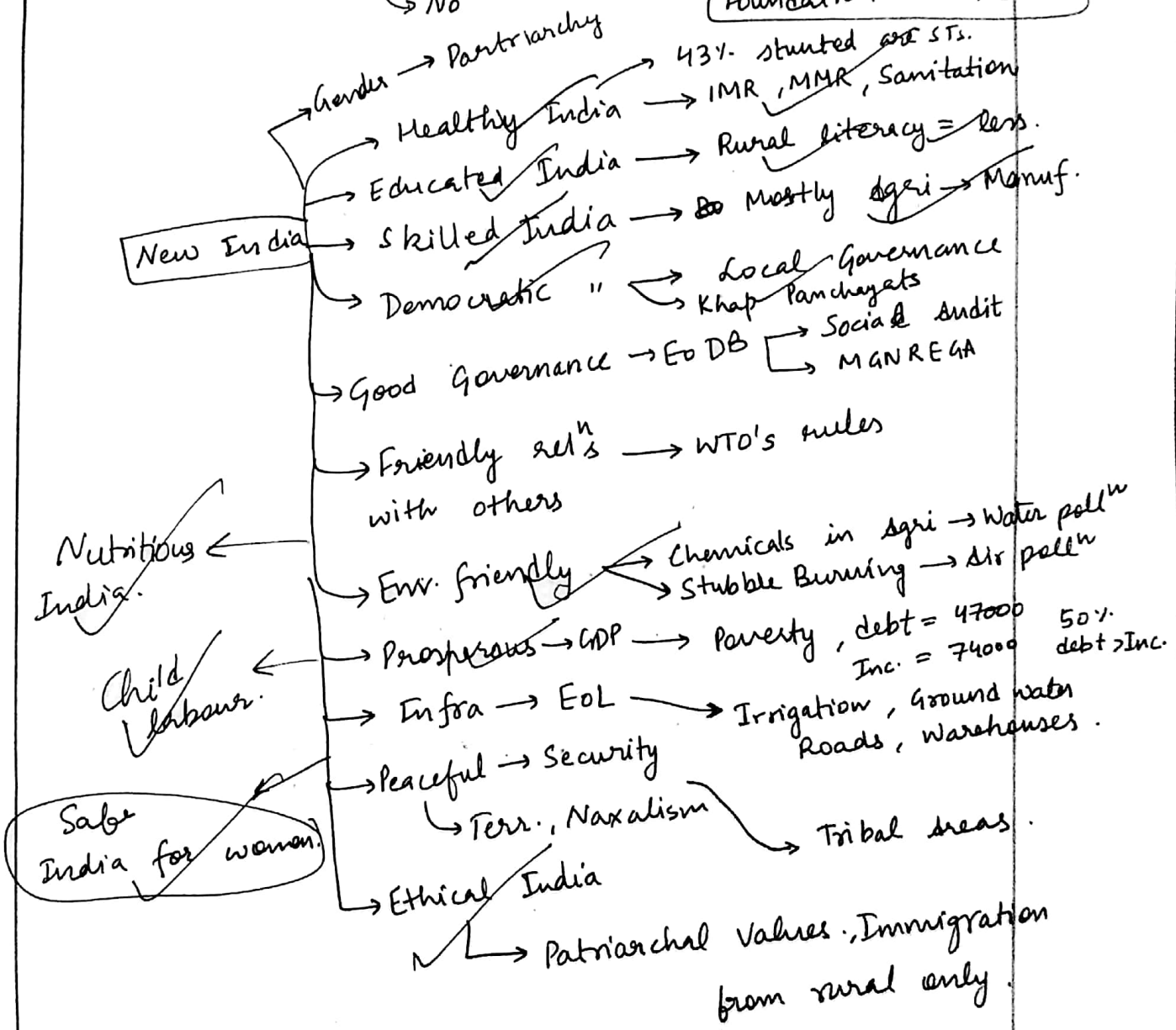


Steps → LEMOA, ~~on~~ Logist. with Singapore
Chabahar port, port in Oman, PMN contract in Central I.Oc.

Foundation of New-India lies in rural upliftment

- the beginning
- sustainability.

Foundation = R. Upliftment



Intro → New India → Stubble, Kisaan andolan to
↳ Farmer's Suicides. Delhi & Mumbai.