

# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2080)

Name of Candidate	Devanshi Saxena		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	1017909
Center	Online	Date	8.2.23

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
1	10		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	10		2. There are <b>TWENTY</b> questions printed in <b>HINDI &amp; ENGLISH</b> इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी में छपे हैं।
3	10		3. All questions are <b>compulsory</b> . सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4	10		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	10		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	10		6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7	10		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।
8	10		
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19	15		
20	15		
Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

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## 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.

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All the Best

1. विमुक्त जनजातियां भारत में सर्वाधिक सुभेद्य और वंचित समूहों में से हैं। उनके समक्ष विद्यमान विभिन्न समस्याओं पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, उनके उत्थान के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

Denotified Tribes are among the most vulnerable and deprived groups in India. Discuss the various problems faced by them. Also, enumerate the steps taken by the government for their upliftment. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Denotified tribes include those who were notified under the British-era Criminal Tribes Act as "criminals by birth". In 1952, post-independence, the colonial Act was repealed and the tribes were de-notified.

⇒ Yet, the Denotified Tribes continue to face various problems:-

- i). Deprived of basic human rights because of their marginal socio-economic position as per the Senke Commission, 2008
- ii). Lack of access to basic infrastructure such as sanitation, shelter, clean water, healthcare and education
- iii). Stigma of criminalhood since colonial era leads to their social ostracisation
- iv). Police excesses are committed unfairly on Denotified tribes as also highlighted by Hon'ble President
- v). Lack of social security cover -

because of no permanent settlement, they fail to access policy benefits of Aadhaar card, ration card etc.

⇒ Government's steps for upliftment of Denotified Tribes :-

i). National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes - constituted in 2006 to look into the issues of DNTs

ii). Scheme for economic empowerment of DNTs :- focuses on providing



iii). Ethnographic studies - sponsored to look into the condition of DNTs and sort identity-related issues

iv). DWBDNC set up to implement welfare programs

DNTs bear the brunt of colonial era policies. Their inclusion and empowerment is the way ahead to realise constitutional ideals of equality and justice.

2. किसी भी देश में अनुसंधान परिवेश के सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण संकेतकों में से एक वहां के डॉक्टरेट्स की गुणवत्ता और उनकी संख्या है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में विद्यमान मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए। हाल ही में, विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (UGC) द्वारा अधिसूचित पीएनडी डिग्री से संबंधित नए नियम किस हद तक इन मुद्दों के समाधान में मदद करेंगे? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

One of the most important indicators of the research ecosystem in any country is the quality and quantity of the doctorates it produces. Discuss the issues in this regard in India. To what extent will the new rules on PhD degrees, notified recently by the University Grants Commission (UGC), help in addressing these issues? (Answer in 150 words) 10

It is often highlighted by academicians that despite a good curriculum, Indian universities fail to make the cut in the top 100 global university rankings such as QS rankings. A major reason for this has been identified as India's sub-par research ecosystem.

⇒ Issues in the Indian research ecosystem :-

- i). Low Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education :- GER in India is 25.2% which is low as per global standards
- ii). Low quality of education : that is plagued with
  - rote learning
  - lack of employability
  - lack of skill development
- iii). Accreditation issues :- Only 30% of universities have been found to be of a quality to get A level by NAAC

iv). Outdated curriculum - wide gap between industry requirements and PhD curriculums, as pointed out by researches by think-tanks.

⇒ New PhD rules as a solution to these issues: -

i). Graduates from 4-year UG Course to be eligible for PhD admission:

This will increase GER and provide equitable access to marginalised student groups such as women and STs to enter higher education.

ii). Requirement of teacher training during doctoral period - shall prepare scholars for industrial requirements.

iii). Challenge the ecosystem of sub-standard research getting published - by doing away with the publication requirements in journals or conferences.

iv). Rigorous specialisation :- focusing on creativity and problem-solving.

The focus on improved quality and quantity under the new PhD rules heralds the dawn of inclusive and context-driven education that shall revolutionise the higher education sector of India.

3. मौजूदा मुद्दों को ध्यान में रखते हुए, भारत में शहरी अवसंरचना और परिवहन (मोबिलिटी) सेवाओं में सुधार की आवश्यकता पर लैंगिक दृष्टिकोण से चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

In view of the prevailing issues, discuss the need for reforming the urban infrastructure and mobility services in India through a gender lens. (Answer in 150 words) 10

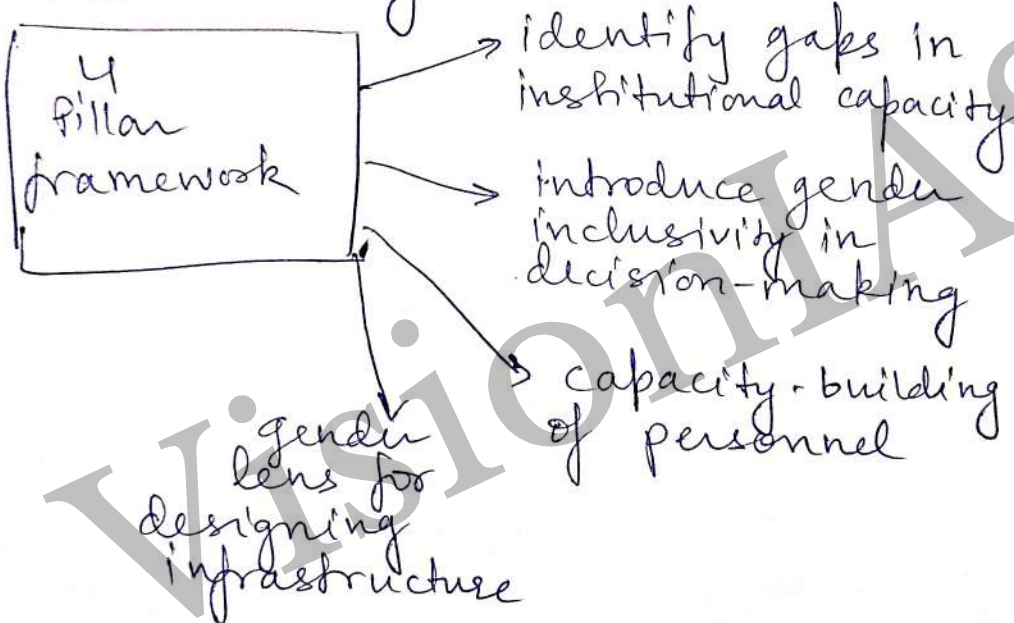
Recently, World Bank launched a 'Toolkit on Enabling Gender Responsive Urban Mobility and Public Spaces in India' to suggest a framework for making public spaces more inclusive of women's needs.

⇒ Need for a gender lens in urban infrastructure and mobility services:

- i). Women constitute the biggest user group of public transport in India, as per World Bank
- ii). Gender-blind designing of urban spaces and transport renders them difficult to access for women
- iii). Lack of safety in urban spaces hinders women's participation and presence in public arenas
- iv). An inept urban mobility system also restricts women's choices in education and unemployment
- v). Women bear disproportionate burden of house work and efficient

public transport, therefore, becomes important for mobility of care. vi). Women grapple with 'time poverty'. Thus, time-efficient commuting needs to be implemented

⇒ World Bank's recommendations for gender-inclusive urban infrastructure and mobility:-



So far, public spaces have been designed by men, for men. A relook at urban mobility through gender lens focuses on 'inclusivity at grass-roots' fulfilling mandate of SDG 5

4. भारत में, 2011-21 में वृद्धजनों की जनसंख्या की वृद्धि दर सामान्य जनसंख्या की वृद्धि दर से लगभग तीन गुना थी। इस संदर्भ में, चर्चा कीजिए कि वृद्धजनों हेतु नीतियों का निर्माण भारत के समग्र विकास के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण पहलू क्यों है। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

In India, the rate of growth of elderly population in 2011-21 was about three times the rate of growth of the general population. In this context, discuss why policies for the elderly are a crucial aspect for India's overall development. (Answer in 150 words)

As per National Elderly Policy, anyone above 60 years of age is considered elderly. While India looks forward to reaping its demographic dividend in the coming years, the ageing of the population poses challenges on many levels.

⇒ Need for policy intervention for elderly: -

i). Protection from destitution: -

Policy intervention such as social security are the way ahead to save the elderly from social and age-related disabilities.

ii). Cover the gap in geriatric facilities: - Surveys have reported rural-urban and class differences in accessing geriatric healthcare.

iii). To offset the economic and development costs of an increase in dependency ratio.

iv) - To utilise the traditional expertise of the elderly in socio-cultural sphere and prevent them from being relegated to core dependency.

v). To ensure elderly's access to quality life and dignified living and facilitate their inclusion in fulfilling SDGs

⇒ Policy initiatives for elderly :-

- i). PM VVY :- pension scheme for senior citizens
- ii). Integrated Program for Older Citizens :- to ensure access to basic necessities and quality life to elderly.
- iii). SAMPANN Project - online pension processing system for elderly
- iv). SACRED Portal - to facilitate work/job opportunities

Old-age is not a destination. Policy intentions can transform it from a burden to an opportunity that aids India's bid for a sustainable and inclusive development.

5. असुरक्षित गर्भपात भारत में महिलाओं के प्रजनन और मातृ स्वास्थ्य को प्रभावित करने वाला एक महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा है। इसके लिए उत्तरदायी कारणों की पहचान कीजिए और उपचारात्मक उपाय भी बताइए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

Unsafe abortions are a critical issue affecting the reproductive and maternal health of women in India. Identify the reasons behind the same and suggest remedial measures as well. (Answer in 150 words) 10

As per UNFPA's State of the World Population Report, unsafe abortions are the third leading cause for maternal mortality in India.

⇒ Reasons behind unsafe abortions:

- i). Sex selectiveness - preference for male child forces women into risky pregnancies and abortions.
- ii). Economic reasons - early marriage and lack of financial resources to take on the burden of childcare force couples to undertake abortion.
- iii). Social stigma - surrounding teenage pregnancies, pre-marital sex and lack of access to contraceptives leads to risky abortions.
- iv). Shortage of gynaecology and obstetrics experts - as per Lancet study, leads to illegal and unsafe abortion procedures.
- v). Foetal malformation - risks the life of the mother during abortion.

⇒ Remedial measures: -

i). MTP (Amendment) Act 2021.

- pregnancy may be terminated upto 20 weeks for married women.
- unmarried women also accorded the right to terminate pregnancy
- keep woman's identity confidential - this safeguards her privacy and her right to bodily autonomy
- upper gestation limit of 24 weeks allowed for special cases
- opinion of only one registered medical practitioner needed for pregnancy up to 20 weeks of gestation

ii). Comprehensive Abortion Care under RMNCH+A program of National Health Mission

iii). Nischay pregnancy detection kits to health care centres

iv). Capacity building of ANMs and ASHAs - to counsel safe abortion practices.

Safe abortion is India's way ahead to realise the goals enshrined in SDGs 3.1, 3.7 and 5.6.

6. नई शिक्षा नीति समानता और समावेशन के सिद्धांतों को किस प्रकार से दर्शाती है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)  
 In what ways does the New Education Policy reflect the principles of equity and inclusion? (Answer in 150 words) 10

The approval of NEP 2020 introduces a slew of changes from the school to the college level in the Indian education system with the aim of making India a global knowledge superpower.

⇒ NEP reflecting principles of equity and inclusion :-

- i). Focus on universalisation of education from preschool to secondary level with 100% GER by 2030
- ii). No imposition of any language on students. Facilitate teaching in mother tongue/regional language up to Grade 5
- iii). Use of technology through National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) to enhance :-
  - equitable learning
  - equitable assessment
  - inclusive planning and administration

- iv). Setting up - Gender Inclusion Fund and Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups
- v). Aims to increase public investment in education sector to reach 6% of GDP.
- vi). ECCE - to usher in a new pedagogical system for young children that is mindful of cognitive development and socio-economic hindrances
- vii). Community participation fostered through cluster approach that provides access to education for all.
- viii). Vocational and skill courses to make formal education an avenue to employment, especially for disadvantaged sections

NEP 2020 affirms the constitutional ideals enshrined in Art. 21, Art. 45 and Art. 39(f) paving the way ahead for inclusive, participatory education that also addresses India's commitment to the SDGs.

7. क्षेत्रीयकरण वैश्वीकृत विश्व में संधारणीय भविष्य की कुंजी है। चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

Regionalisation is the key to sustainable future in the globalised world. Discuss.  
(Answer in 150 words) 10

The increasing multipolarity of the global order today has led thinkers and researchers to posit that as globalisation leans towards conflict and risk, robust regionalisation is the key to develop sustainably

⇒ Regionalisation for a sustainable future!

- i). To develop robust supply chains:

COVID-19 showcased the fragility of global supply chains. IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath had posited that more local and robust supply chains are needed to build resilient economy

- ii). Refocus on centrality of states:-

- Political economy has become increasingly fragile - as apparent in Russia-Ukraine crisis
- regionalisation is way ahead to bolster states' role. Eg. Aatmani-  
rban Bharat focuses on the idea of resilient Indian economy.

iii). Counter dysfunctional aspects of globalisation :-

- Regional trade blocs such as APEC, ASEAN leverage collective potential to counter WTO's hegemony.

iv). Concern for environment :-

- Regionalisation caters to local knowledge systems and is attuned to regional climatic patterns for better mitigation and adaptation

v). Enhance Impact Investment in economies - focusing on environment, society and governance

vi). Strengthened local economy - promote inclusivity through education and sustainable employment. Eg. India's MGNREGA and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan

vii). Forge regional cooperation in infrastructural development.  
eg. BIMSTEC and economic corridors

Regionalisation is the step to achieve a vision of globalisation that is sustainable and inclusive and ensures equitable global participation

8. यद्यपि वैश्वीकरण मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन के लिए कथित तौर पर जिम्मेदार है, तथापि यह मानवाधिकार आंदोलनों को इसके अतिक्रमण और नकारात्मक प्रभावों का मुकाबला करने की अनुमति देता है। प्रासंगिक उदाहरणों के साथ सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

While globalisation is allegedly responsible for human rights violations, it allows human rights movements to counter its excesses and negative effects. Elaborate with relevant examples. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Globalisation refers to the economic, cultural, social and political changes that have a trans-national impact and a blurring of geo-political boundaries as goods, services and capital expand in transnational movement

⇒ Globalisation has been held responsible by scholars for human rights violations :-

- i). Geopolitical domination - eg. unfair trade agreements and increasing inequality between the third world and the first world
- ii). Cultural appropriation/subjugation eg. the rise in Islamophobia post 9/11 and subsequent harassment of Muslims and other minorities in the West through racial violence
- iii). Economic burden :- outsourcing of jobs by MNCs to youth in developing nations is accompanied with lack of social security and minimal wages
- iv) Environmental degradation - wherein

developed countries fail to take adequate steps despite their role in historic emissions.

⇒ Yet, globalisation allows for an avenue for human rights movements:

- i) Cultural sphere - Globally, there is an awareness to safeguard minority rights.  
eg. condemnation of China's treatment of Uighurs.
- ii) Environment - movements have attained a global scale with widespread support.  
eg. Greta Thunberg's Fridays for Future
- iii) Political freedom - globalisation creates a public discourse on democratic and equal societies.  
eg. feminist protests in Iran and the call against theocracy
- iv) Countering economic exploitation:  
eg. India's bid to resist WTO's norms on subsidies for benefit of vulnerable Indian agriculturists

Globalisation has emerged as a double-edged sword. Through the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam in India's presidency of G20 (in 2023), there is the way ahead to shift global narrative from conflict to cooperation.

9. लैंगिक अंतराल को दूर करने तथा विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी, इंजीनियरिंग और गणित (STEM) में महिलाओं के भविष्य को बेहतर बनाने के लिए एक बहु-हितधारक दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

To bridge the gender gap and improve the future of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), a multi-stakeholder approach is required. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

At the Indian Science Congress in ~~2022~~ January 2023, discussions focussed on addressing the gender issues in science, arguing for a holistic methodology to understand and resolve the pervasive gender gap in STEM.

⇒ Gender gap in STEM:-

i). As per various researches 43% of STEM graduated in India are women. Yet, only 14% of these make it to STEM jobs.

ii). Reasons for this gap:-

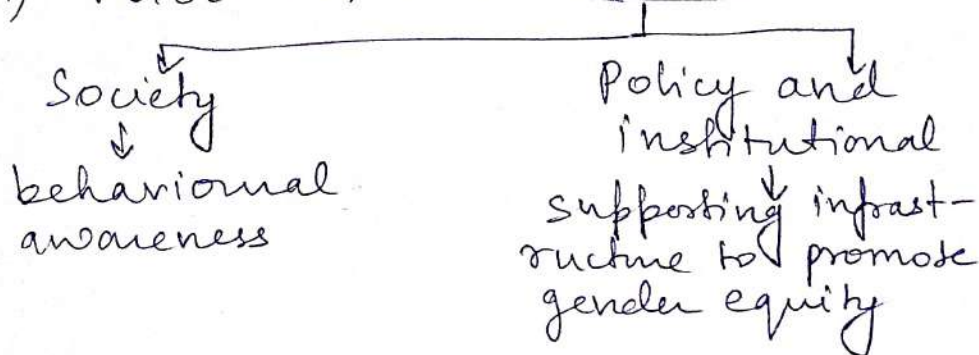
- focus on stereotypical gender roles
- societal norms and patriarchy
- burden of housework and child care on women
- instances of sexual harassment at workplace

⇒ To bridge the gap, multi-stakeholder approach is required:-

i). Create a level playing field that is not gender-blind and

receptive to differential needs of women.

ii). Interventions at two levels



iii). Examples of some interventions include :-

a. Vigyan Jyoti scheme :- aid to girls from rural background to pursue career in field of science

b. GATI scheme :- create framework for assessing Gender Equality in STEM

c. KIRAN :- opportunity for women in STEM to progress in academic and administrative arenas

d. Women Scientist Scheme - to provide career opportunities to women scientists with a break in their career.

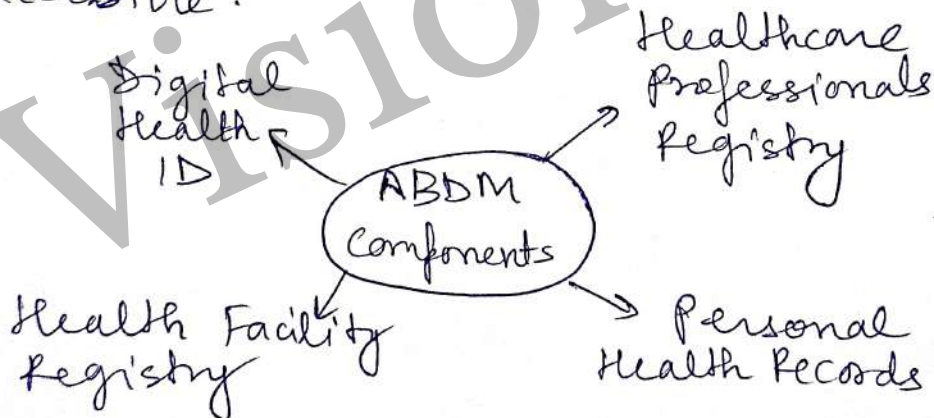
Plugging the gender gap in STEM through holistic policy implementation paves the way for attaining SDG 5 while upholding the fundamental Duty enshrined in Art. 51A.

10. डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य देखभाल भारत में स्वास्थ्य देखभाल तक पहुंच और उसकी वहनीयता से संबंधित स्थायी मुद्दों का समाधान करने में सक्षम है। इस संदर्भ में, देश को 'डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य' क्रांति के मुहाने पर लाने में आयुष्मान भारत डिजिटल मिशन की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

Digital healthcare has the potential to address the perennial issues pertaining to accessibility and affordability of healthcare in India. In this context, discuss the role of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission in putting the country at the cusp of a 'digital health' revolution. (Answer in 150 words) 10

launched under the aegis of National Health Policy 2017, the Ayushman Bharat scheme aims to achieve the goal of Universal Health Coverage in line with SDG 3.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission is an extension to the original scheme with a new focus on integrated digital health infrastructure that is inclusive and accessible.



Components of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

⇒ ABDM and India's digital health revolution :-

i). Ease of doing business for health-

care service providers

- ii). Create an integrated digital health ecosystem along the lines of UPI in banking/finance sector
- iii). Facilitate easy access and exchange of longitudinal health records of citizens with their consent
- iv). Digital highways to bridge the gap among different stakeholders of healthcare ecosystem.
- v). Targeted health service delivery with focus on:- efficiency, effectiveness, transparency.
- vi). Create seamless online platform - to facilitate interoperability within digital healthcare system.
- vii). Concerns - of digital divide and data breach need to be addressed for better implementation.

ABDM ushers in a digital revolution in healthcare as per global standards that is inclusive, accessible, innovative and expresses India's commitment to SDG-3.

11. कृषि के नारीकरण को प्रेरित करने वाले कारकों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए तथा इसके प्रभावों पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, उन तरीकों का भी वर्णन कीजिए जिनके माध्यम से महिलाओं को इस संदर्भ में सशक्त बनाया जा सकता है। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

Enumerate the factors driving feminization in agriculture and discuss its effects. Also, state the ways in which women can be empowered in this regard. (Answer in 250 words) 15

The term feminisation of agriculture first appeared in the Economic Survey 2017-18 to describe the increase in number of women work-force in agricultural and allied activities.

⇒ Factors driving feminisation in agriculture :-

- i). Poverty - in rural areas forces women to work as agricultural labourers to supplement family income
- ii). Agrarian distress :- Causes shifting of men towards casual work, forcing women to manage the rigours of agrarian labour
- iii). Large scale rural to urban migration of men as per 2017-18 Economic Survey, majorly led to women being forced into the agricultural sector
- iv). Mobility restrictions on women: confine them to patrilocal arrangements

Thus, while rural males migrate for economic and employment opportunity, women's choices are limited.

⇒ Effects of feminisation of agriculture:

i). Feminisation of poverty -

Scholars have posited that lack of viable alternatives for women forces them into agrarian distress that translates into feminisation of poverty.

ii). Health and occupational hazards -

Lack of agrarian training, non availability of farm implements suitable for handling by women endanger women's health and safety.

iii). Land ownership - As per 2015-16 Agricultural Census, only 13.87% operational land holders are women.

This lack of adequate land ownership prevents access to credit and resources.

iv). Dual burden - of agricultural and household work on women.

v). Agrarian sector takes a hit - as women are marginal farmers lacking access to resources, credit,

Technology and marketing. Thus, agricultural production suffers, endangering food security

⇒ Way ahead to empower women in agriculture:-

- i). Policy support to Women-led SHGs - for micro-credit availability and capacity building of women
- ii). Gender-friendly tools and machinery :- should be built to ensure that farm operations are sustainable for women
- iii). Grant farm ownership to women - to enable access to schemes and benefits of agricultural policies
- iv). Gender-budgeting - to promote inclusive planning and implementation
- v). Initiatives such as Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas, Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana :- to empower women in agriculture.

Women's participation in agriculture needs to be adequately leveraged to realise the twin aims of sustainable agriculture with women-led empowerment.

12. भारत में दिव्यांगजनों (PwDs) द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली बहुसंख्य चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, दिव्यांगजनों के लिए उपबंधित विधायी प्रावधानों और समाज के इस वर्ग के उत्थान के लिए सरकार द्वारा शुरू की गई पहलों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

Discuss the numerous challenges faced by Divyangjans, i.e. Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in India. Also, mention the legislative provisions for Divyangjans and the initiatives taken by the government to uplift this section of the society. (Answer in 250 words) 15

The UN convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities defines PwDs as those with physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments that hinder their interaction and full and effective participation in society.

⇒ Challenges faced by PwDs in India :-

- i). Discrimination - leads to social ostracisation, making them vulnerable to violence, neglect and harm.  
eg. women with disabilities - more susceptible to experiencing gender-based violence.
- ii). Health - suffers due to lack of access to basic medical facilities.  
eg. Lack of medical knowledge on intellectual disabilities affects a person's right to dignified life.
- iii). Education and employment - impeded by lack of availability of special schools and a conducive

work environment

iv). Political participation of PwDs is made difficult due to :-

- inaccessible voting process
- lack of an interest group to back PwD rights.

v). Inaccessible public spaces - such as unavailability of ramps, braille lettering affects public participation

⇒ Legislative provisions for Divyangjans :-

i). Mental Health Act 2017 :-  
caters to needs of persons with mental illness and provides necessary services

ii). Rights of PwD Act 2016 :-  
provides reservation and ensures accessibility in public buildings

iii). Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 - to monitor services given to PwDs

iv). National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 to enable PwDs to live independently and sufficiently.

V). Constitutional provisions :- of justice and equality enshrined in Preamble and Fundamental Rights. Art. 41 of DPSP enables state to take responsibility for betterment of disabled and marginalised.

=> Government initiatives :-

- i). Accessible India Campaign - to raise social awareness on disability and enable conducive accessibility for PwDs.
- ii). Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme :- to ensure social justice and opportunities in socio-economic sphere to PwDs.
- iii). Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase :- to assist PwDs in accessing durable and scientifically manufactured appliances.
- iv). Indian Sign Language and Training Centre - to promote sign language usage.

The stunning performance of athletes at Paralympics 2020 has highlighted how a mix of social awareness and policy support is the way ahead to unlock human potential for an Inclusive Society.

13. चूंकि भारत ग्रामीण से शहरी समाज में परिवर्तित हो रहा है, ऐसे में टियर 2 और टियर 3 शहर देश की आर्थिक वृद्धि के चालक बन सकते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इन शहरों की आर्थिक वृद्धि को बाधित करने वाले प्रमुख मुद्दों की जांच कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

As India transitions from a rural to an urban society, Tier 2 and 3 cities can become the driver of the country's economic growth. Discuss. Also, examine the key issues constraining the economic growth of these cities. (Answer in 250 words) 15

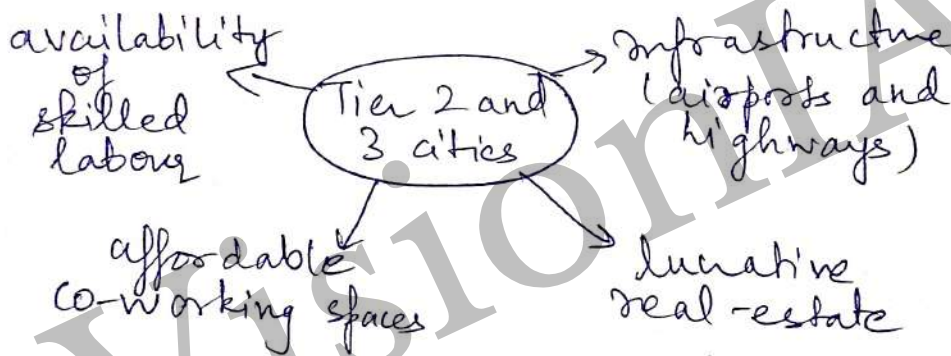
For achieving the goal of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2026, a NITI Aayog report has showcased how Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities are the engines of growth that need to be harnessed for India's target of being a major stakeholder in global economy.

⇒ Reasons for Tier 2 and 3 cities being the driver of country's economic growth :-

- i). moderate rents and low operational costs - in these cities facilitate setting up of business and start-ups.
- ii). Availability of skilled and affordable personnel - provides the requisite human capital to drive growth
- iii). Policy support - such as incubators and start-up Chattrisgarh provide the impetus for innovation

iv). As per 2018-19 Economic Survey nearly half of the recognised startups in India were from tier 2 and 3 cities.

v). Digital India Startup Hub and Digital India Investment Fund to foster tier-2 and 3 cities led economic growth that generates employment and bottom-up, inclusive development.



The opportunities in Tier 2 and 3 cities

⇒ Yet, there are constraints in the economic growth of Tier 2 and 3 cities:

- i). Limited access and scope of infrastructure - prevents sustainability in the long run
- ii). Lack of adequate funding - hinders flourishing of opportunities in economy
- iii). Limited clientele base and markets

prevents creation of economies of scale

iv). Lack of adaptability in these cities :- for B2B ecosystem with a global outlook.

v). Lack of common economic vision prevents planning and cooperation across different institutions

⇒ Initiatives to harness the potential of tier 2 and 3 cities :-

i). Investors' Summits - being organised in Lucknow (UP) provide platforms to foster innovator-investor connect

ii). SAMRIDH Initiative - provides support to start-ups in initial stages

iii). ASPIRE - initiative under MSME pushes for grassroots growth

iv). ODOP scheme - fosters balanced regional development through the emphasis on local traditions and handicrafts.

Harnessing the potential of tier 2 and 3 cities is the robust way for India to achieve its SDGs while ushering in a positive socio-economic change

14. पोषण अभियान के माध्यम से कुपोषण को दूर करने की भारत की प्रतिबद्धता के बावजूद, इसके कार्यान्वयन में आने वाली चुनौतियों के कारण पोषण-प्लस रणनीति को अपनाने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

Despite India's commitment to address malnutrition through POSHAN Abhiyaan, the challenges in its implementation call for a POSHAN-Plus strategy. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

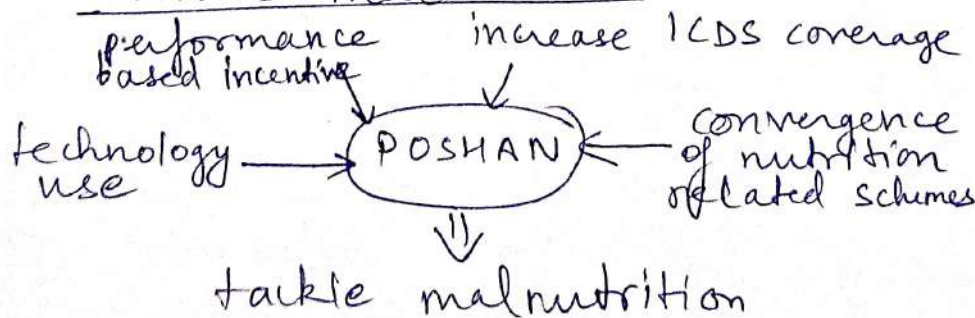
Launched in 2018, POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to ensure holistic development and adequate nutrition for pregnant women, mothers and children.

⇒ Objectives of POSHAN Abhiyaan:-

- reduce stunting and wasting in children by 2% every year
- reduce anaemia by 3% among children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers every year

⇒ POSHAN Abhiyaan and India's fight against malnutrition:-

- i). POSHAN offers a holistic approach towards malnutrition:-



ii). POSHAN Maah (Month) in September focusing of social and behavioural interventions to tackle malnutrition

iii). POSHAN Mahila - ensure nutrition supply through organically home grown vegetables

⇒ Despite India's efforts, challenges persist :-

i). Inadequate data :- due to lack of yearly updation and inaccurate reporting by Anganwadi workers create issues in implementation

ii). leakages and inefficiencies in PDS - aggravate the problem of food security, especially for vulnerable sections

iii). Issues with ICDS :-

↓  
food supplied does not meet quality standards

↓  
food distribution is not uniform

↓  
Anganwadi workers lack proper training

iv). Food fortification has been inadequate as cereals remain primary component of diet while pulses are neglected

v). Socio-economic and cultural challenges - illiteracy and caste prove to be major hindrances eg. in UP, women beneficiaries refused to eat food cooked by SC Anganwadi workers

⇒ Need for a POSHAN plus strategy:

- i). Suggested by NITI Aayog - to renew focus on social determinants
- ii). Tackle governance challenges of NHM/ICDS mechanisms
- iii). Capacity building of personnel such as Anganwadi workers
- iv). Incorporate the Millet Mission with POSHAN to address nutritional security

POSHA Abhiyaan is central to India's commitment to SDG 2 and overcoming its limitations is the need of the hour with a concerted, collaborative approach.

15. भारत में, आत्महत्या 15-29 आयु वर्ग के लोगों में मृत्यु के प्रमुख कारणों में से एक बन गई है। इसके लिए उत्तरदायी कारणों को स्पष्ट करते हुए, राष्ट्रीय आत्महत्या रोकथाम रणनीति के प्राथमिकता प्राप्त क्षेत्रों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

In India, suicide has become one of the leading causes of death among those aged 15-29. Bringing out the reasons behind the same, discuss the priority areas of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Suicide is when self-inflicted harm is the reason for an individual's death. Psychological and sociological factors lead to suicide.

⇒ In recent years, studies by NCRB, Lancet and NGOs have pointed out an increasing trend of suicide among 15-29 years aged individuals.

⇒ The reasons for the same are:

- i) Family problems :- are largely a result of changing social order due to urbanisation

Urbanisation



Breakdown of the support of traditional large families



clash of value systems



suicidal tendencies

ii). Unemployment :- as per NSSO, India's employment rate is as high as 6.1%. This fosters depression and suicidal tendencies among youth.

iii). Academic pressure - and resulting failure in exams drives youth to suicide. The alarming rate of suicides in Kota and its burgeoning coaching culture has been a cause of concern.

iv). Lack of professional help :- prevents access to timely and quality mental health counselling. As per India Spend, India has 87% shortage of mental health professionals.

v). Substance abuse :- such as drug usage, alcoholism etc. As per National Mental Health Survey, over 22% of India's youth struggle with substance abuse.

vi). Social neglect - and stigma surrounding mental health exacerbated suicidal tendencies.

⇒ Priority areas of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy :-

Focuses on reduction in suicide  
mortality by 10% by 2030 with:-

multi-sector  
collaboration

time-bound  
action plans

- i). Guidelines for responsible media reporting on suicides and prevent access to means of suicide
- ii). Community and social support:- to have a holistic approach to mental health
- iii). In line with global strategy - by focusing on SDG 3.4 and promoting mental well-being
- iv). District Mental Health Program - for efficient decentralisation and accessible counselling services
- v). Mental-well being - to be integrated into educational curriculum
- vi). Certified and trained mental health professionals :- to reduce and the stigma surrounding mental health  
Along with initiatives such as KIRAN, MANODARPAN and Mental Healthcare Act 2017, the Suicide Prevention Strategy upholds mental-well being as crucial component of WHO's definition of health

16. यह तर्क दिया गया है कि भारत में उद्यमिता परिवेश के रामक्ष विद्यमान विभिन्न बाधाओं के बावजूद, भारत के भविष्य को इसके उद्यमियों द्वारा आकार दिए जाने की संभावना है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

It has been argued that despite several hurdles faced by the entrepreneurship ecosystem in India, the future of India is likely to be shaped by its entrepreneurs. Comment. (Answer in 250 words) 15

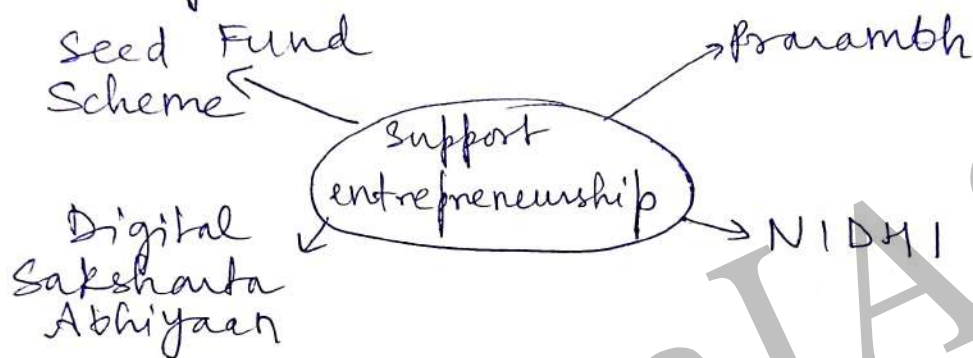
With around 100 unicorns, India's vast commercial potential for start-up and innovation has made it the "poster child for emerging market", cementing its place in global economy.

⇒ Yet, the entrepreneurship ecosystem remains saddled with hurdles:-

- i). Lack of forward thrust to innovation due to lack of vocational training and industry exposure in Indian education system.
- ii). spatial and digital divide :- as rural areas are deprived of reliable internet access and local initiatives are deprived of state funding.
- iii) Lack of formalised funding - prevents the creation of economies of scale and, therefore, start ups flounder in a few years.
- iv). Inefficient supply chains - hinder the development from regional to national economy.

v). Lack of independent innovation in areas such as space sector. India holds less than 2% of the market in the global space economy worth USD 440 billion.

⇒ Policy support for entrepreneurship :-



⇒ Entrepreneurship and India's future :-

- i). In 2021, Indian start-ups raised USD 23 billion across 1000+ deals :- With policy support, this heralds an entrepreneurship led futuristic Indian economy
- ii). Entrepreneurship - being widely seen as an important source of job generation. As Hon'ble PM has also mentioned, the Indian optic needs to shift from being job seekers to job providers/generators.

iii). Technological interventions in start-up ecosystem has the potential to facilitate socio-economic development and transformation.

iv). Active government support - through NPCI, JAM trinity, digital connectivity has created a favourable ground for entrepreneurship ecosystem.

v). Bridge spatial inequalities - innovation is the key to bridge development gaps between rural and urban areas.

eg. MFine - provides AI-powered health care consultation even in remote areas.

vi). Agri-startups - can build resilient supply chains in Indian agriculture, boosting agrarian productivity and incomes.

Entrepreneurship brings the synergy of private sector's expertise and public sector's policy reach to fruition. A concerted investment in entrepreneurship now shall ensure sustainable and inclusive development of India in future.

17. यद्यपि, पथ विक्रेता (जीविका संरक्षण और पथ विक्रय विनियमन) अधिनियम, 2014 सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर स्ट्रीट वेंडर्स के विनियमन और उनके अधिकारों की सुरक्षा का प्रावधान करता है, तथापि यह अभी तक पूरी तरह से अपने उद्देश्यों की प्राप्ति में सक्षम नहीं हुआ है। चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

While the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 provides for the regulation of street vendors in public places and protection of their rights, it has not been able to fully meet its objectives. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

The Street Vendor Act 2014 defines a street vendor as a person engaged in vending of everyday articles or offering services to general public, either from a temporary structure or by moving from place to place.

⇒ Objectives of the Street Vendors Act, 2014 :-



⇒ Objectives to be implemented through :-

i) Registration of street vendors - provides them legal right to

conduct business in a designated vending zone.

ii) - Town Vending Committees (TVCs) to keep record of vendors and issue vending certificates.

iii) - Representation in TVCs :- to provide a platform to raise vendors' concerns

iv) - street vending plans - such as identification of vending zones

v) - Integration with Smart City Mission

vi) - Grievance Redressal Committees (GRCs) to ensure transparency and accountability.

⇒ Objectives thwarted due to poor implementation :-

i) - Standing Committee reported that identity cards have not been issued to all vendors

ii) - TVCs have not been constituted in many states leading to eviction of street vendors

iii) - 60% of TVC composed of state

Government nominees. This goes against the ethos of representation

iv). Standing Committee Report has noted that only 31% of towns in states have framed street vending plans. This impedes livelihood and distribution of goods and services

v). GRCs have been constituted only in 9 states. Their efficient and robust set-up is crucial to the implementation of the Act.

⇒ Way ahead → Smart Cities Mission should integrate the street-vendors' concerns

→ monitoring committee and surveys to expedite implementation

Gaps in implementation have seriously thwarted the objectives of the 2014 Act. A refocused approach, along with SVANidhi and SCM to fulfill the constitutional mandate of Art. 38(1), 38(2), 39(a) and 41.

18. भारत में घटती कुल प्रजनन दर (TFR) का लाभ उठाने के लिए समानांतर रूप से अममान प्रजनन दर पर काबू पाने की भी आवश्यकता है। विवेचना कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

In order to reap the benefits of decreasing Total Fertility Rate (TFR), there is a need to parallelly overcome the asynchronous fertility rates in India. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

As per World Bank, TFR refers to the number of children that would be born to a woman if she were to live to the end of her childbearing years and bear children in accordance with age-specific fertility rates.

⇒ Benefits of decreasing TFR:

- i). Population stabilisation - A TFR of 2.1 would indicate a long-term stabilisation of population preventing extreme fluctuations.
- ii). Accelerated economic growth: as it opens up the demographic dividend with a majority youth population for upcoming 2-3 decades
- iii). Delayed peak population - stalls the burden of population growth at a crucial time for economy
- iv). Environmentally sustainable - as there is less pressure on land

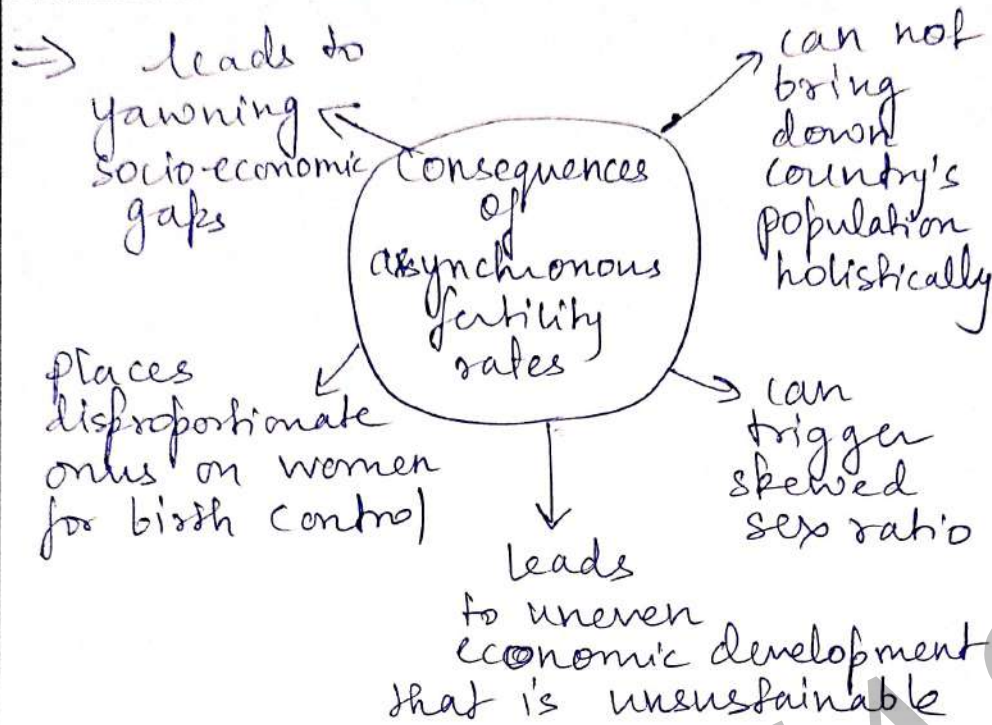
water and other natural resources

- v). Increased quality of life
- vi). Women empowerment as child bearing and child-care do not predominantly take up a woman's time

⇒ However, the benefits of declining TFR are offset by asynchronous fertility rates

⇒ Asynchronous fertility rates in India:-

- i). The dip in TFR from 2.2 in 2015-16 to 2 in 2019-2021 has not been uniform.
- ii). Rural-urban gap:- TFR in rural areas more than urban areas
- iii). Fertility varies between different age groups in different states
- iv). Literate women report a lower TFR as compared to illiterate women as per Sample Registration System data



⇒ Way ahead:-

- i). Targeted social and behavioural change :- through awareness programs
- ii). Mission Parivaar Vikas - to provide increased access to contraceptives in high focus areas
- iii). Train CHCs and ASHA workers to raise awareness on family planning, family health especially women's health

Overcoming the issue of asynchronous fertility rates is crucial to India's attainment of the SDGs and utilisation of its demographic dividend.

19. स्थायी आजीविका सुनिश्चित करने में गरीबी आय और उत्पादक गंगाधनों की कमी से अधिक बाधक है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में मौजूद गरीबी की गतिशील प्रकृति पर चर्चा कीजिए और इम गमम्या के समाधान के लिए भारत सरकार द्वारा अपनाए गए उपायों को रेखांकित कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

Poverty entails more than lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods. In this regard, discuss the dynamic nature of poverty existing in India and highlight the measures taken by the Indian government to address the problem. (Answer in 250 words) 15

As per the World Bank, poverty is a state or condition in which there is a pronounced deprivation in well-being. It has many dimensions such as lack of access to basic goods and services, low levels of health and education and suppressed capability.

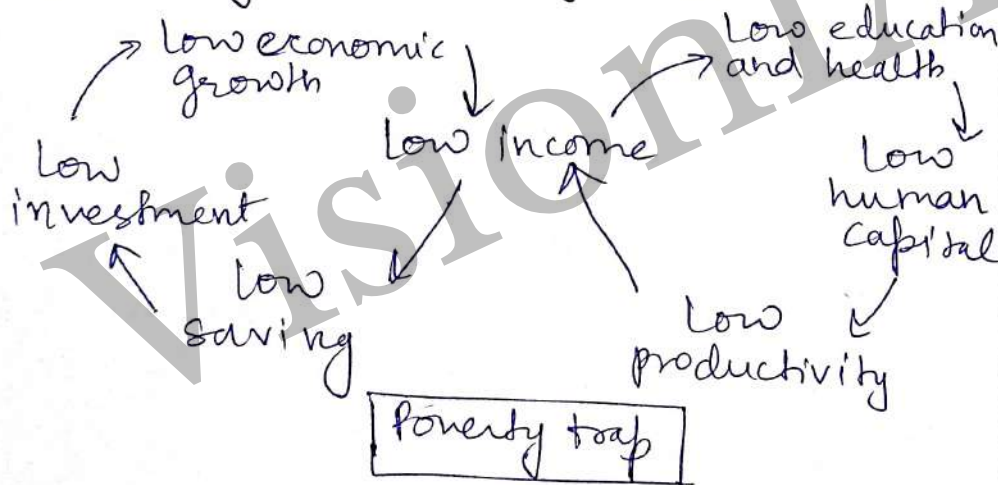
⇒ Dynamic nature of poverty in India :-

- i). Indian policymaking has predominantly linked food consumption as criterion of poverty.
- ii). However, poverty is not just about food but encompasses factors such as health, education, employment etc.
- iii). Amartya Sen's capability approach highlights how the hindrance in full development of human potential is also a form of poverty.
- iv) - Findings of India Human Development

Survey have pointed out that poverty is not only defined by accident of birth but also caused by occurrence of disease, disability and employment.

v). There is a dynamism - poor households may move out of poverty while non-poor may become poor over a period of time.

vi). poverty - is linked to and influenced a host of socio-economic factors forming a poverty trap.



⇒ Measures taken by Indian government to address poverty:

i). PM Jan Dhan Yojana - to ensure direct transfer of subsidy, pension, insurance etc. targeting the unbanked poor.

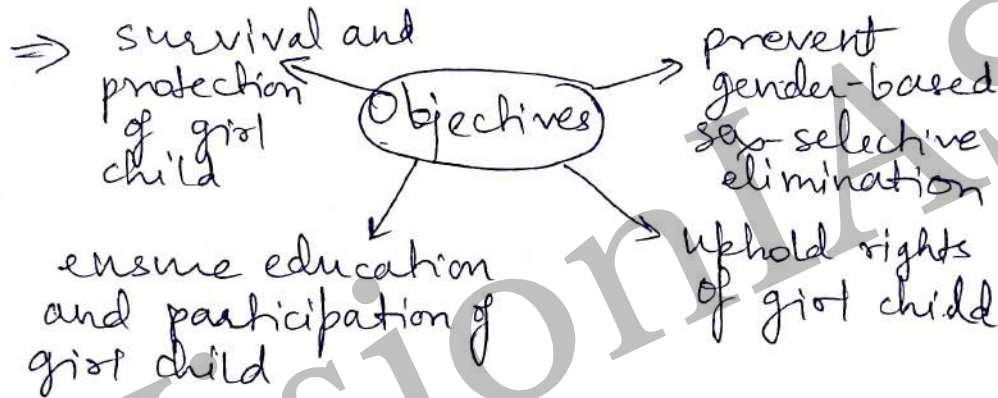
- ii). PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana -  
to facilitate market entry for those  
outside mainstream education
- iii). NULM - organises urban poor  
in SHGs to ensure easy access to  
credit and market entry
- iv). NRLM - targets rural poor  
through SHGs
- v). MGNREGA, 2005 - recognises  
right to work as central to Art 21.  
Various research studies have found  
it to be efficient in tackling rural  
poverty through grassroots development  
and checking rural to urban migration
- vi). National Food Security Mission:  
to ensure food security fulfilling  
the mandate of SDG 2.

Poverty has a multi-dimensional  
and dynamic form. A robust  
implementation of policies such as  
NFSM, MGNREGA holds the potential  
to balance welfare with economic  
growth consolidating India's commitment  
to SDG-1 i.e. removal of poverty.

20. हालांकि, 'बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ' योजना ने लैंगिक भेदभाव पर अत्यधिक ध्यान केंद्रित किया है, लेकिन यह खराब कार्यान्वयन और निगरानी के कारण वांछित परिणाम प्राप्त करने में विफल रही है। चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

Though the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme has given much-needed attention to gender discrimination, it has failed to yield desired results due to poor implementation and monitoring. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Launched in 2015, the Beti Bachao, Beti Padho scheme addresses the declining child sex ratio and associated issues of women's empowerment over a life-cycle continuum.



Objectives of BBP

⇒ The important achievements of BBP: -

- i) Brought the focus on the issue of gender discrimination
- ii) Created a sustained social mobilisation and awareness program to promote the cause

of the girl child.

- iii). Formed gender critical districts to curb the low child sex ratio
- iv). Included aspects such as toilet availability in schools and secondary education enrolment of girls to view girls education holistically
- v). Targeted sections such as young parents, medical professionals and SHGs etc. to bring about an attitudinal change in regressive social norms.

⇒ Yet, BBPP has failed to achieve its goals because of poor implementation and monitoring.

i). As per the Committee on Empowerment of Women's 5th Report :-

- a). Improper spending of funds :-  
80% of funds spent on advertising and not on sectoral interventions such as health and education.
- b). Of the total budget allocation

of ₹ 848 crores between 2014-20, only ₹ 622 crores were released to states.

(C). Undertilted funds - states have utilised only 25.13% of the funds.

ii). Sex-selective abortion has not been strictly curtailed. As per Health Ministry, Delhi has highest number of non-registered clinics that engage in sex-selective abortions.

iv). Spatial inequality:- The glaring chasm between rural and urban areas in indicators of women literacy, women health and education continues to exist. Policy has not been able to bridge this gap.

v). Infrequent task force meeting:- lead to shoddy appraisal and monitoring

vi). Non-compliance to guidelines is still high.

A renewed focus on girl child and gender question through gender budgeting etc. is the need of the hour to reaffirm India's commitment to SDG 4 and 5.