



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. : 00215413

अभ्यर्थी का नाम/Name of Student : ADITYA NARAYAN.H

माध्यम: हिंदी/अंग्रेजी
Medium: Hindi/English

English

तारीख
Date

26-07-'25

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

केंद्र
Centre

Trivandrum

निरीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर
Invigilator's Signature

Arav

	<p style="text-align: center;">महत्वपूर्ण अनुदेश</p> <p>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।</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Important Instructions</p> <p>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.</p>
1	<p>(क) अपना पंजीकरण सं. एवं अन्य विवरण केवल प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका (क्यू.सी.ए.) में उम्मीदवार के लिए निर्धारित स्थान पर ही लिखें।</p> <p>(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।</p>	<p>(a) Write your Registration Number and other details only in the space provided in the Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet for candidates.</p> <p>(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</p>
2	<p>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।</p>	<p>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.</p>
3	<p>परीक्षक को प्रत्यक्ष/अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से कोई भी प्रार्थना/धमकी भरी बातें न लिखें।</p>	<p>Do not make any direct/indirect appeal/threat to the examiner.</p>
4	<p>उत्तर अस्पष्ट अथवा गंदी लिखावट में न लिखें। इस प्रकार के उत्तर का मूल्यांकन नहीं भी किया जा सकता है।</p>	<p>Do not write answers in bad/illegible handwriting. Such answers may not be evaluated.</p>
5	<p>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।</p>	<p>Write answers in ink only. Do not use pencil for writing the answers. However, pencil may be used for drawing diagrams, sketches, etc.</p>
6	<p>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।</p>	<p>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.</p>
7	<p>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।</p>	<p>Write answer at the specific space (right below the question) only. Answers written elsewhere at unspecified places in the booklet shall not be evaluated.</p>
8	<p>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।</p>	<p>If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it and write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be valued.</p>

कार्यालय के प्रयोग हेतु For Official Use	कार्यालय के प्रयोग हेतु For Official Use
<p>परीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर Signature of Examiner(s)</p>	

प्रासांक 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

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इस ह्रासिए में
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The recent judgement of the Supreme Court on the Aligarh Muslim University case (2020) granted it the minority educational institution tag under Art 30 overturning its previous judgement in Azeez Basha Case

Judgement's implication on Art 30

- ① Criteria set by the SC to judge on how a minority educational institution is to be decided. The 3 criteria are :-
 - Intention of setting up of the institutions
 - Current functioning of the institutions
 - Who benefits from the institutions.
- ② SC clarified that being formed by act of Parliament / state legislature

doesn't take away the minority character of the institution.

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③ An institution accepting substantial government aid can still be a minority educational institution if other criteria followed.

④ Such institutions can make use of the SC guidelines in St Stephen's college case for reservation and appointment without compromising merit.

⑤ Act 30 has been expanded in its scope by SC.

⑥ Act 30 interpreted to mean substantive equality of benefit to the community that narrow interpretation or establishments by whom criteria

Hence the AMU case has put equality and social justice at the forefront.

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)

The Supreme Court in the Tamil Nadu Governor Case (2021) has prescribed time period in the gubernatorial assent of the governor. It has led to debates around legislative accountability & reparation of powers.

Implications of the judgement

(A) On cooperative federalism

① Focussing on cooperative spirit between Governor and legislation

(Eg) Delays of assent by Kerala governor on Kerala university bills

② Guidelines and strict-timeline of 1 month to assent for governor has been set to avoid delays.

③ However, questions have been raised if Supreme Court has authority to decide timeline for President (3 months) in case of Presidential referral

④ Constitutional discussion of Governor has been limited

⑤ Legislative accountability

① Upholding spirit of democracy - as Governor should act on aid & advice of council of ministers

② 'Deemed assent' in case of refusal to assent - taking away product veto

③ Governor being nominal head, doesn't have discretion over legislature

④ Questions raised on issue of separation of powers & judicial overreach.

⑤ Raised by former VP Jagdeep Dhankar

The case headed to Presidential referral to SC on questions of getting timelines for President; refused move to Constitutional Bench.

3. सहकारी क्षेत्र 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

The cooperative sector is the backbone of Indian agrarian and rural sector. It has been constitutionalised in Part IX-B of the constitution.

This has however led to certain troubles between centre & states

- ① Incorporation of ministry of cooperatives by centre, conflicting with 7th schedule.
- ② Lack of proper scientific management in cooperative causing their failure
- ③ PMIC Cooperative Bank failure
- ④ Duality of cooperative control.

registration societies at states and RBI
in case of urban cooperative banks.

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Recent changes & initiatives

- ① Multi state cooperatives bill passed by Parliament providing:-
 - Directions on appointment of board
 - Control with centre
 - Scientific management of multi state cooperatives.
- ② Recent SC judgement re-iterating that ultimate control of cooperatives is with states.
- ③ 'Shakaae Se Samriddhi' campaign aimed to cooperative resilience with Centre-state cooperatives
- ④ Banking regulation act amendments to incorporate UCBs under RBI

Hence cooperatives need to be made resilient for a prosperous & equitable rural sector.

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

Civil society over the years have generally acted as a bridge between people and the state. The participation of its social media & digital mobilisation has furthered its impact.

Impact on Policy making

(A) Positive

① Faster opinion making and mobilisation

(Eg) The opinionation against draft EIA, 2020 by Amnesty international

② Reaching noole and cranny of the nation

(Eg) Issue of child labour and exploitation reporting through social media by child rights & you.

③ Faster reaching vulnerable population

(Eg) Radiation exposure issue in

Jadugoda mines showcased in social media ^{leading to} ⇒ higher infrastructure in the area for health

उम्मीदवारों को इस कक्ष में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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(B) Negatives

① Echo Chamber effect on social media, effectively avoiding independent thinking

⊕ Lobbying against development projects

② Majority opinions or retaking minority views

⊕ Large development goals focussed over loss of livelihoods

Impact on accountability

(A) Positive

① Holding local representatives accountable

⊕ Raising local issues by Swaraj abhiyan

② As a platform against injustice

⊕ Feminism in India raising #MeToo

(B) Negatives

① Misleading public opinions

⊕ Misinfo on Kudankulam reactors

② Spilling over into violence.

⊕ Violence ensuing during protest 2020

Hence civil society needs to act as a bulwark against executive tyranny & by guiding policy making.

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)

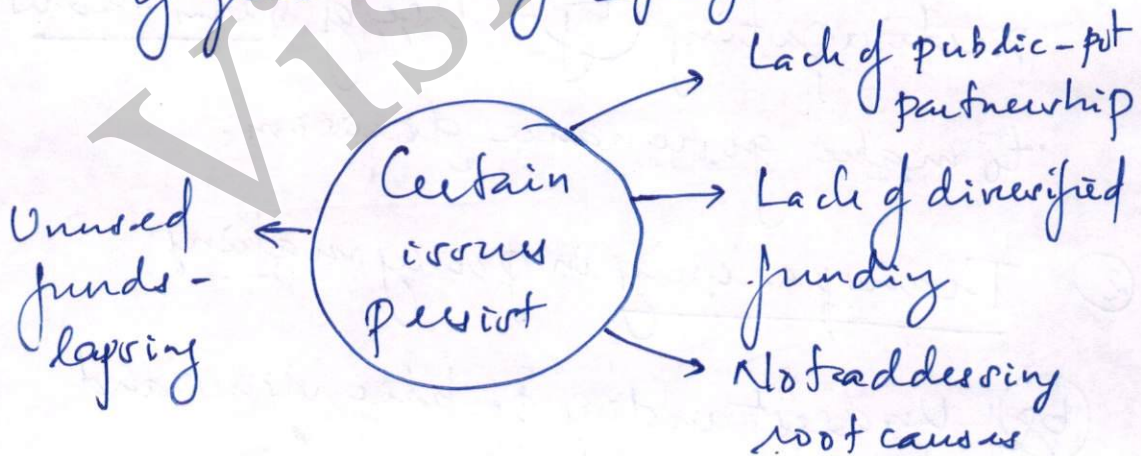
10

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a legal provision under the Companies Act that mandates companies to use 1% of their net profit in previous financial year for social welfare.

CSR emerging as solution for challenges

- ① Innovative solutions for societal problems. (Eg) Supply of manhole cleaning robots to P.R.I.s by Tata Trusts to reduce manual scavenging.
- ② Funding issues for developmental issues addressed. (Eg) Azim Premji Foundation impacts education, healthcare & social projects.
- ③ Skill based learning to the vulnerable

- (EJ) Education in recreational activities of A1/MU by Reliance foundation.
- (4) Addressing environmental challenges.
- (EJ) Apprenticeship and reformation campaigns by Mahindra & Mahindra.
- (5) Women empowerment issues are addressed.
- (EJ) Paani foundation focusing reaching tapped water to Rajasthan reducing burden on women.
- (6) Child rights addressed. (EJ) Education of girl child by Infocys



Hence CSR funds need to equitably & judiciously used for a better India

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 ह्यशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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Mechanisms like Public consultations and Jan Sunwais are important and necessary part of participatory governance. It has been reiterated in second ARC report as well

Impact on governance

- ① Participatory governance with all participating (eg) Use of Gram Sabhas to make governance decision.
- ② Transparency in policy making
(eg) Understanding public views and grievances.
- ③ Undisrupted development projects

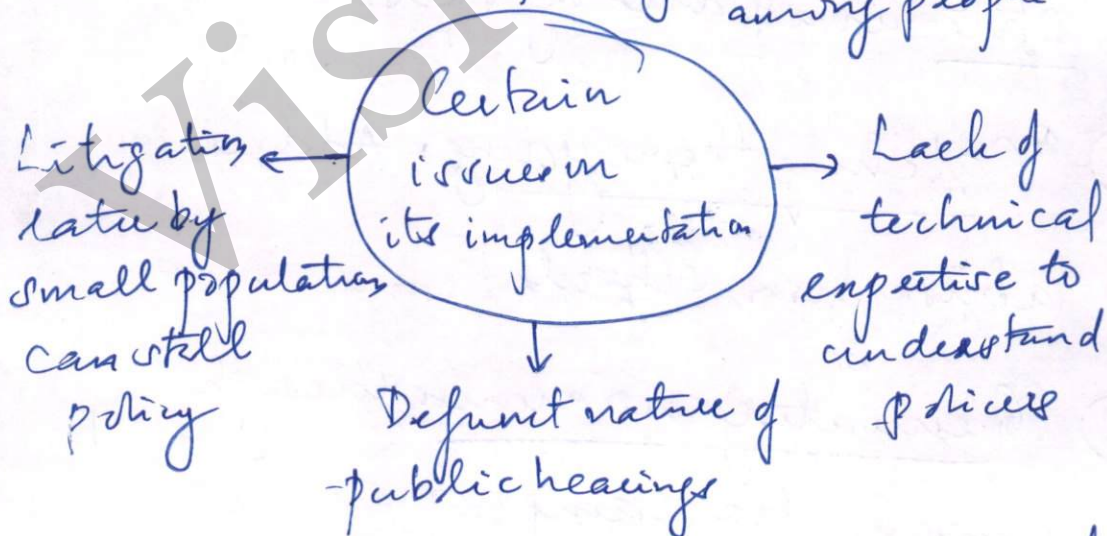
part consultations helping timely
comp. action. (Eg) Public hearing mandated
in Environment Impact assessment.

④ Due process of law is followed.

(Eg) Land acquisition and rehabilitation
act mandates public consultation

⑤ Dispute resolution among parties
through mediation via public consultation

(Eg) Tan Adalat for civil disputes
Improper knowledge
of Tan Adalats
among people



Hence public consultation is a crucial
aspect of democratic decentralisation
for timely & participatory decision making.

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

The national action plan for drug demand reduction & Nasha mukta Bharat Abhiyaan have been the central policies for discouraging youth from substance abuse in India.

Its successes

- ① Cooperation between centre and states in addressing substance abuse
- ② Catching them young: Addressing abuse from schools.
- ③ Generating awareness through mass media campaigns.
- ④ Effort taken in understanding necessity cooperation between

Law enforcement and civil society

Drawbacks of the policies

- ① Supply side of the drug issue hasn't been addressed. \rightarrow Easy access of drugs in schools & colleges.
- ② Inability to make behavioural change in addicts & gullible youth.
- ③ Prevalence of drug abuse in Punjab among youth.
- ④ Lack of in cooperation or duty of parents, teachers and law enforcement.
- ⑤ Social stigma around youth addicts prevalent not allowing them to admit usage.

Hence the national action plan on drug demand reduction of warha Mukh abhiyan should focus on behavioural change with cooperation from school, parents & civil society

8.

भारत की बुनियादी शिक्षा प्रणाली में रटकर सीखने की प्रवृत्ति और रचनात्मकता की उपेक्षा, इसे आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस द्वारा संचालित हो रहे बाज़ारों 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)

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

With the advent of Artificial intelligence the importance of Rote learning ~~and~~ has declined and need for creativity has surfaced.

Rote learning & neglect of creativity in India

① Focus on syllabus completion over out comes in Indian systems.

② According to ASER report 2021, 90% of class 5 students are not able to read class 2 textbooks.

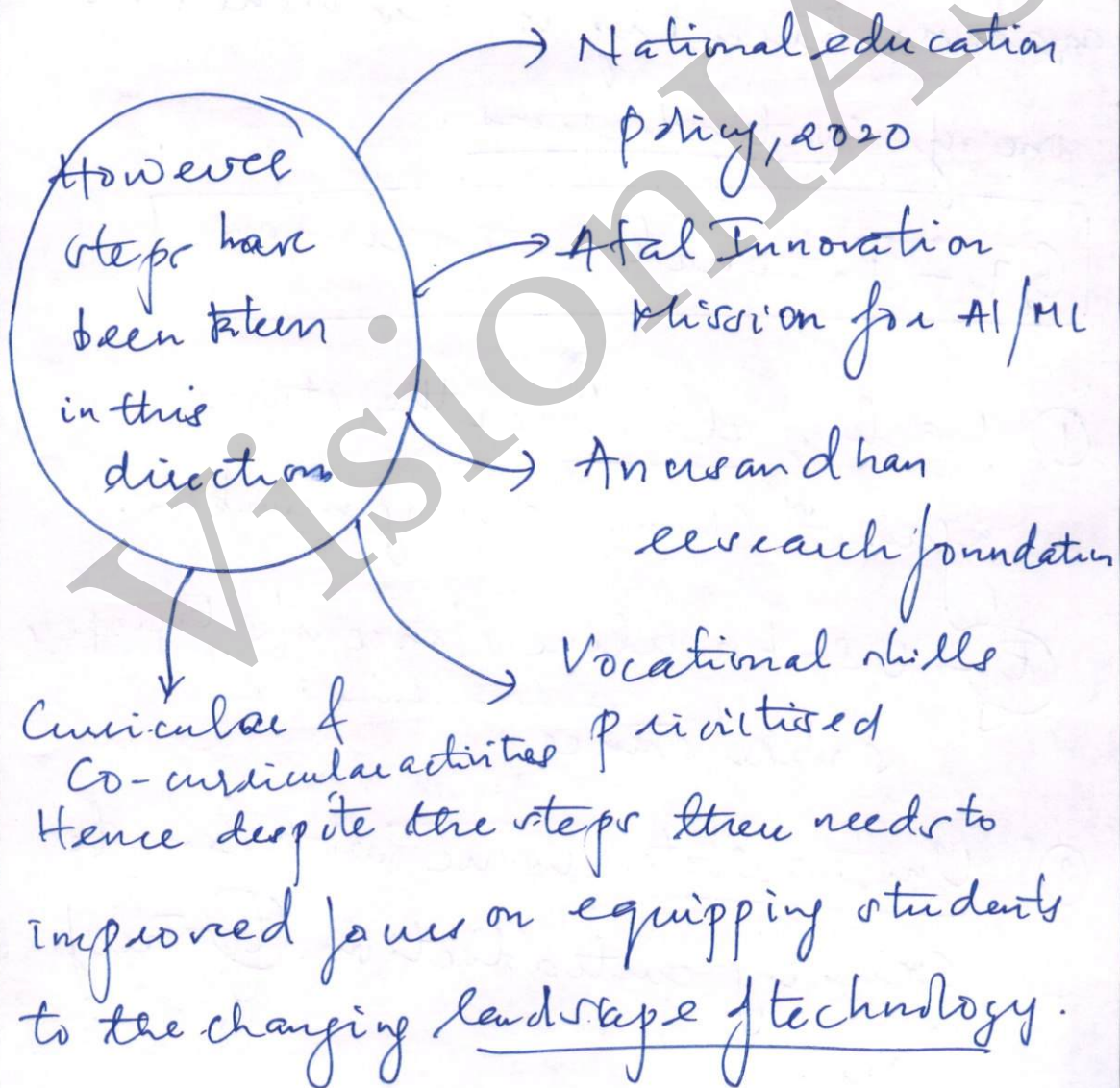
③ Experiential learning is not prioritised.

④ Innovation in learning is

generally suppressed.

④ Adapting to newer and cutting edge skills like machine learning, coding and AI are not adopted.

⑤ Old and obsolete syllabus in technical education like engineering.



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)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हिसाब में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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G7 or group of seven is an international body of the most economically advanced nations. Recently it has turned into one of contradictions.

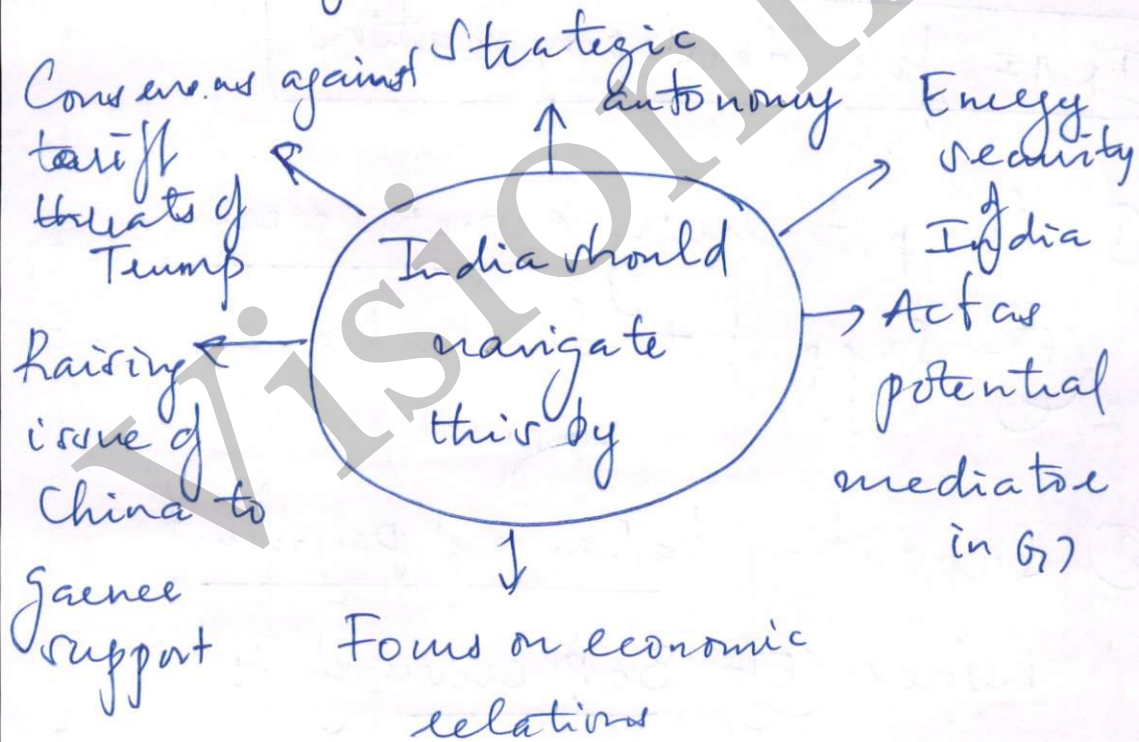
G7 - Internal contradictions

- ① Lack of clarity on the stance against China among members.
ⓔ US - hardline stance v/s Europe's softer stance
- ② United States issue with Canada causing contradiction. ⓔ Tariff War.

③ Sentiment against vs stance of using
tariff as a tool for diplomacy

④ Lack of clarity on stance with
Israel - Palestine with US supporting
Israel

⑤ United States repeated call against
NATO funding causing issues.



Hence India should use G7 as a
strategic platform to support national
interests

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

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

International Monetary Fund was set up as the result of Bretton Woods agreement for global financial stability.

IMF for developing nations

- ① Support during economic crises.
Eg Support to Sri Lankan economic crisis.
- ② Supporting balance of payment issues. Eg BOP crisis of India in 1991
- ③ Social development & financial development objectives.

(EJ) Poverty reduction grants

④ Focusing on free and open markets
for prosperity & resilience.

Issues of IMF

① Inordinate sway of US in the
governance due to higher quota

② Sovereignty hampered due to conditions
set by IMF. (EJ) Exchange rate
flexibility as condition for India in 1991

③ Developing nations have fewer
voice in the governance of IMF

④ Rigid strategies followed by IMF
for granting money. (EJ) Pledging of
sovereign assets

⑤ Lack of success in ensuring turnaround.
(EJ) Continuing Venezuelan crisis

Hence IMF reforms should be on India's
agenda for global stability.

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)

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

The 103rd Amendment act, 2019 provided for 10% reservation to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in government jobs and educational institutions. It introduced the dimension of economic backwardness in affirmative action.

Positive implications of EWS

① Focusing on economic justice as a criteria for judging backwardness.

② Upheld by SC in Janhit Abhiyan v/s U.O.I case

③ Recognising the value of equal protection of law under Art 14 to

those that are economically backward.

- ③ Instating economic mobility as a way of coming out of backwardness.
- ④ Idea is in line with 'creamy layer' criteria set by SC in Indira Sawhney Case for OBC.
- ⑤ Classification of 10% within unreserved section has sufficient nexus with substantive equality.

Negative implications of EWS

- ① Reducing the ambit of merit in jobs and educational institutions, may impact efficiency.
- ② Economic criteria is dynamic as people may go in and out of the 8 lakh slab in different years.
- ③ Potential misuse due to the

unreliability of income certificates -

(Eg) Puja Khedkar case, saw the misuse of OBC-NCL income certificate

④ Constitutional idea of reservation to socially, educationally and historically backward classes at quarter.

⑤ Economic justice as a criteria cannot be at the same level as historical injustice due to legacy issue

Despite its shortcomings, the EWS reservation has turned out to be a social mobility tool for those in the unreserved class for equity & equal opportunity in line with the Preamble.

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
(DPC) led by the district magistrate/collector was envisaged as a key tool to uphold the need for planned urbanisation in India. However it has been ineffective due to many issues.

DPC has ~~not~~ achieved much success

- ① Separate focus on planned development by the district administration.
- ② Efficient distribution of infrastructure in Pune by DPC
- ③ Executive authority leading to faster actions for planning.
- ④ Power of DM to supervise plans and its execution

- ③ Grievance redressal provision in front of the collector. (E) Protest against Aarey deforestation for Mumbai metro.

Challenges faced by DPC

- ① Overlap of powers with local self governance - ~~PRTS~~ ^{ULBs} impeding its functioning.
- ② Lack of financial autonomy and dependence on state or ULBs
- (E) Lack of funds with Mumbai DPC
- ③ Lack of inclusion of experts in the committee or government servants
- (E) Sare aarey protest not being heard by the DPC
- ④ Comprehensive district coverage in distribution of infrastructure ~~is~~ not

undertaken causing regional disparities.

- ⑤ Lack of operation & maintenance of public infrastructure. (E) Poor conditions of roads in Thiruvananthapuram

Measures to be taken

- ① Clearly delineate the powers for planning of DPC and ULBs.
- ② Set fixed budgets for DPC in every budget by ULBs.
- ③ Addition of subject matter experts on planning & sustainability.
- ④ Strengthening - Funds, functions, functionaries \Rightarrow Second ARC.
- ⑤ Prompt grievance redressal based on Scotts Model \Rightarrow Second ARC.

Hence the harmonious functioning of DPC & ULBs is a necessity to make our cities equipped for the 21st century

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

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

Article 293 of the
constitution imposes restriction on borrowing by states without the permission of the centre. This however has led to fiscal restrictions for the states.

Factors hindering states fiscal autonomy

- ① Inability of states to access international market to borrow. (Eg) Restrictions placed on Kerala for making use of Masala bonds.
- ② Reducing fiscal health due to outstanding liabilities of states
(Eg) Fiscal Health Index, places Punjab at the bottom.

③ Reducing vertical devolution to states making borrowing necessary.

Ex) 15th Finance Commission only devolved 41% compared to 42% in 14th FC.

④ Horizontal devolution criteria by finance commission hampering southern states

Ex) 45% weightage in income distance, making borrowing necessary for southern states

⑤ Increased cess and surcharge by center which aren't subject to devolution impacting fiscal health of states.

⑥ Recent court case by Kul a government to continue with compensation in GST regime due to fall in revenue.

⑦ ~~Conditional borrowing for reforms~~
However, there are also certain factors that make restriction on borrowing for states a necessity:-

- ① Sticking to fiscal deficit targets under Fiscal responsibility & budget management act. (E) States like Punjab have consistently given above it
- ② Spending on revenue expenditure over capital expenditure by states make borrowing limits necessary. (E) 60% of total expenditure in Kerala
- ③ Increasing outstanding liabilities that might lead to financial emergency.
- (E) ~~50%~~ 70% of Kerala's budget goes to repayment.
- ④ Refs are based on borrowing limits
- ⑤ External risk or presence of unlimited external borrowing is allowed.

The way forward, would be then to assign the 16th finance commission to look into states needs and allow calibrated specific limits for economic equity of the states.

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)

15

The representation of people's act, 1951 deals with possible penal actions in case of violation of electoral ethics. This based on various SC judgements has to be balanced with the right to contest

Tension between right to contest & uphold electoral ethics

① Right to contest

① Provides for those under trials to contest in elections under RPA, 1951

② Free and fair elections to all despite social / economic status

③ Right to contest for those not

part of any political party as
independents -

⑧ Upholding electoral ethics

① Convicted criminals with minimum
punishment of 2 years imprisonment
banned for 6 years from contesting.

② Brought after SC judgement in
Lily v/s U.O.I case

② Unethical practices like hate
speech, propagating untouchability,
taking bribes, promoting rati-
penalised under Sec ^{8(a)} ~~8(a)~~ of
RPA act, 1951.

③ Criteria set to uphold egalitarian
rights to all those contesting,
but some special provisions to
recognised and national parties

④ Recognition of size campaigns

Should there be lifetime ban?

(A) No

① Allowing for reformation of the convicted.

② Against constitutional ethos of allowing opportunity to reformed

③ ~~Conviction~~ Immediate ban doesn't allow right to appeal

(B) Yes

① Decriminalisation of politics.

② Acts as deterrent to violators.

③ Upholding ethical electoral conduct

Hence RPA, 1951 should be kept abreast

to changing societal needs to decriminalise politics in India

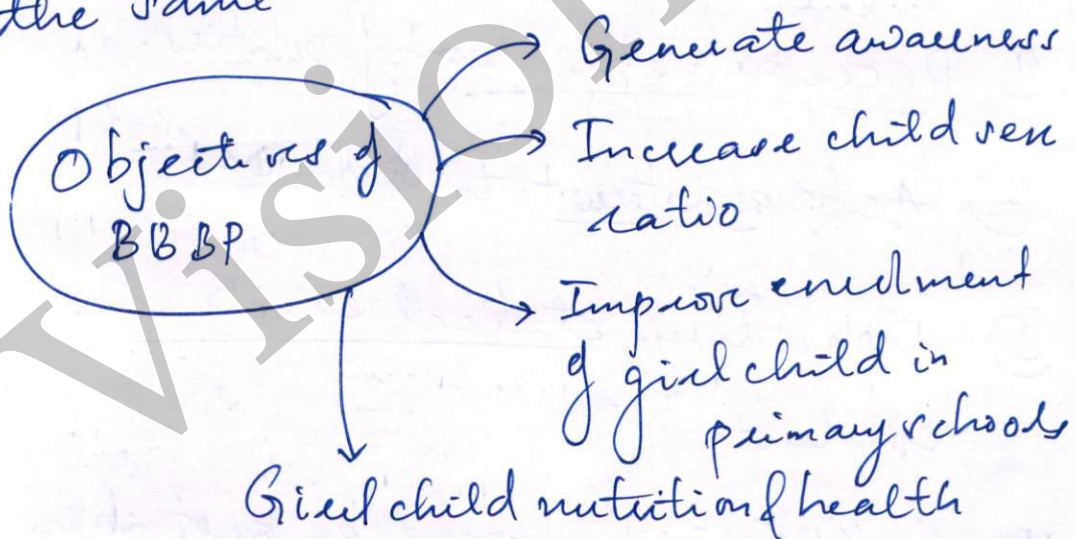
15.

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

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

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme ^{was} brought in 2015 to generate awareness on the necessity to care for the girl child in all aspects. It has made significant strides in the same.



Successes of BBBP

① Improved awareness among common public about the necessity of

educating the girl child. (E) NFHS-5 data shows the increased awareness among women on their rights.

(2) Improved child sex ratio (E) NFHS-5 shows sex ratio has improved to 1020 to 1000 males in India

(3) Reproductive rights. (E) NFHS-5 has shown increase from 47% to 52% in awareness of reproductive rights

(4) Improved child nutrition among girls.

(E) Improvement in infant mortality & wasting-stunting ratios (NFHS-5)

(5) Financial empowerment of girl child.

(E) Proliferation of Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme.

Measures to improve the impact at
grass roots level

(1) Decentralisation of implementation

of the schemes to ASHA workers and local self bodies.

- ② Attention to close gap between male and girl child in terms of nutrition & education. ~~Ex~~ Secondary school dropout higher among girls than males.
- ③ Social reform by questioning patriarchal norms. ~~Ex~~ Media campaign against menstruation taboo
- ④ Access to reproductive solutions like sanitary napkins & to be made affordable & accessible under scheme
- ⑤ Integration of girl education & financial incentives at panchayat level

Hence BBPP scheme needs to be further strengthened to meet ultimate goal of gender justice.

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 are bodies of cooperation in which people at similar economic & social status come together to pool in resources for common good.

SHGs as vehicles of socio-economic transformation

① Economic empowerment of the vulnerable.

(Eg) NABARD-SHG linkage providing collateral free loans.

② Political empowerment by constant interface with local self bodies

③ Status of women has improved.

(Eg) Kudumbashree project in Kerala.

④ Agrarian transformation for farmers

(Eg) Pooling in resources for farming

Role of government in increasing reach of SHGs

- ① Government schemes in supporting SHGs
(Eg) Kudumbashree project in Kerala, increased its reach by organising women across the state.
- ② Integration with multiple levels of governance. (Eg) SHGs of farmers in Maharashtra have acted as a pressure group for their rights due to integration with PRC & state govt.
- ③ Empowering cooperation of SHGs with private sector. (Eg) cooperation of potato farmer SHGs with Pepsi Co in Ahmedabad.
- ④ Promotion of SHG formation with financial as well as scalable incentives.

① NABARD-SHG linkage, priority sector lending.

उम्मीदवारों को इस हिसाब में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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Role of government in increasing effectiveness

① Providing for scientific management of SHGs for financial prudence.

① Increasing default of loans by SHGs & cooperatives to R.R.Bs

② Educating SHG members on use of technology & digital literacy

① Akhaya Centres in Kerala educating cooperatives on digital ~~literacy~~ tech.

③ Provision of tools to expand their area of coverage and business impact based on criteria.

① IFFCO taking part in fertiliser testing with farmer SHGs.

④ Entrepreneurship - vulnerable sections → Women
→ SC
→ ST
Hence the government need to up its game with respect to SHGs for complete rural & agrarian transformation

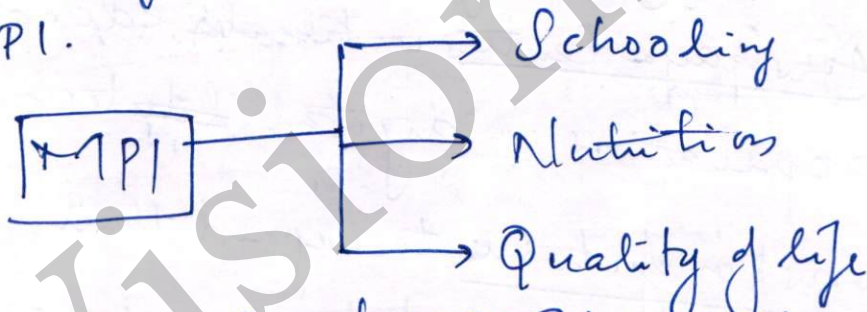
17.

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

Multidimensional poverty focuses on a series of factors rather than just a single poverty line as prescribed by the UNDP. Despite India being fastest growing major economy it hasn't been effective in reducing MPI.



India ranks at ~~125~~ 91 in MPI

Underlying causes of poor rank of ~~MPI~~ India in MPI

- ① School dropouts persisting despite presence of high enrollment ratio at primary level. (Eg. 20% dropout in secondary school.)

- ② Attention to calorific hunger & malnutrition. (Eg) Maternal mortality rate at 86 in India.
- ③ Unavailability of land or assets to large chunk of population, impacting quality of life. (Eg) 70% population own land less than 1 acre
- ④ Institutional deliveries have improved but still persists only at $\sim 80\%$
- ⑤ Quality of education poor. (Eg) ASER 2024 report shows 44% class 5 students can't read class 2 textbook
- ⑥ Regional disparities in spread of aspects of economic development.
(Eg) Inordinate focus of development in urban areas over rural
- ⑦ Proper housing & ~~sanitation~~ welfare are alien to large amount of population.
(Eg) PMAY G target extended to 2027 for 100% housing

Measures taken by the government

- ① Poshan Abhiyan to focus on nutritional targets & reduce stunting, wasting etc.
- ② Beti Bachao Beti Padhao - Focus on girl education & sex ratio
- ③ Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana to provide pucca housing to all
- ④ Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to address sanitation & open defecation (ODF by 2019)
- ⑤ PMESHRI schools to provide impetus to schools to act as model schools.
- ⑥ National education policy (2020) improve quality of education
- ⑦ PM Jan Dhan Yojana - Financial inclusion

Hence the government along with civil society needs to act to ensure
HPI of India improves.

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 हार्शिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

India is the largest producer of cereals which is the staple diet of India. However the rank of India in Global Hunger Index is at 111 out of 139 countries.

Reasons for the paradox

- ① Excess focus on calorific hunger over nutritional security.
 (E) PDS & NFSA focuses on meeting just the calorific hunger.
- ② Hidden hunger - high deficiency of micro nutrients like vitamins & minerals. (E) Prevalence of Scorvy & Kwashiorkor.

- ③ Protein deficiency - especially chronic among children of growing age. (Eg) Lack of incorporation of protein in mid-day meal scheme.
- ④ Poor impetus given to bio fortification of cereals - causing ~~deficiency~~ deficiency.
(Eg) Iron deficiency among women
- ⑤ Lack of awareness among general public on nutritional information.

Measures to be taken by the

- ① Reforming public distribution system by procuring eggs and milk and provision at subsidised rates
- ② Decentralised assessment of nutrition targets by use of primary health centres and ASHA workers.

- ③ Compulsory incorporation of eggs
or paneer for protein deficiency
in mid-day meal scheme.
- ④ Rights based approach by amending
NFSA to include nutrition targets
- ⑤ Increased impetus to biofortification
of ~~some~~ cereals. (E) Golden Rice for Vitamin C
- ⑥ Mass media awareness campaign
on the lines of 'anti-tobacco campaign'
to increase awareness.
- ⑦ Targetted schemes on macro nutrient
deficiency on the lines of financial
incentives.

Hence addressing nutritional deficit
is necessity of a 'Swasthya Bharat'

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's neighbourhood

first policy focuses on acting as first responder to crises in its neighbourhood.

India's extension of line of credit and support to Maldives & Sri Lanka are examples of it.

Indian aid impacting bilateral ties

(A) Sri Lanka

- ① Providing \$ 2 billion of immediate line of credit during crises.
- ② Resulted in gratitude from Sri Lanka's President.
- ③ Accepted India's opposition to

Presence of Chinese ships in its waters.

④ First visit of new Sri Lankan President was to India.

⑤ Promised increased cooperation in trade, innovation & fisherman issue.

② Maldives

① India as second largest trade partner of Maldives

② Invited PM Modi to visit Maldives

③ Reiteration of Maldivian - Indian cooperation in Maldivian Parliament

④ Continued training of Maldivian defence forces by India

However aid has caused certain issues in the respective nations :-

① Pointing at big brotherly attitude of India. ④ 'Indic Out' Campaign in Maldives.

② Chinese retaliation by providing

larger aid to Sri Lanka.

- ③ Poor comments made by officials in Maldivian government on India (later retracted).

Steps to be further taken

- ① Economic infrastructure building on IOR region with cooperation.

(Eg) Pushing for stalled Malé airport operation.

- ② Meeting deadlines and timely completion of infra projects.

(Eg) Completion of IIT trilateral highway.

- ③ Transparent and sustainable alternative to debt trap of China.

- ④ Increasing trade with IORA nations through FTAs & PTAs.

Hence India needs to be proactive in IOR to be a global leader of the region.

महाद्विपीय 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

India & Afghanistan

has had historic & cultural significance based on the Gandhara - Bharat Sambandha.

Its geostrategic significance & stability has made India to choose pragmatism in its relations

Geostrategic significance

- ① Affinity to central Asia & Europe through land, making it important for trade for India.
- ② India's connectivity to Europe by INSTC corridor and Ashgabat agreement requires a stable Afghanistan.

③ Part of India's 'extended neighbourhood policy'.

④ Important for India as a balance and leverage on Pakistan (E) Border dispute between Afghanistan & Pakistan

⑤ Development projects undertaken by India. (E) Zaranj Delaram, Salma Dam & Afg Parliament building.

⑥ Stability in Afghanistan is necessary for India to have peaceful operations in Iran's Chabahar \Rightarrow connectivity.

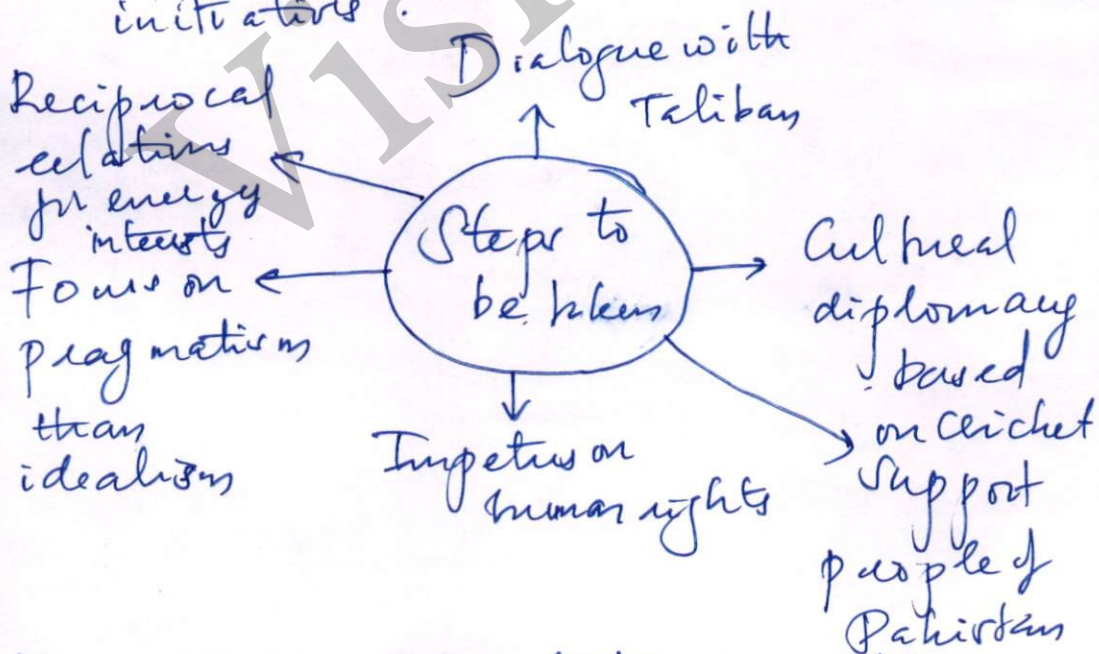
Post 2021 implications

① India's connectivity

① Stalling of development projects like Zaranj - Delaram highway

- ② Avoiding Afghanistan route for trade
- ③ Loss of hopes on INSTC and Ashgabat agreements
- ④ Potential ~~issues~~ ^{trade} ~~or radicalisation~~ and stalling of efforts in Chabahar.
- ⑤ Energy corridor ambitions

- ① TAPI pipeline has been stalled earlier and any idea of rejuvenation seems distant.
- ② ~~Lack~~ stalling of cooperation in hydrocarbon initiatives.



Hence India-Afg relations need to be strengthened from both sides for mutual benefit

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