

TEST CODE: 32006

FIAS – MGP2020 – EASSY2

ForumIAS

ACADEMY

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	Rajesh Kumar Mohan		
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Mobile No.		Date:	12 Nov. 2020

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION
Q.No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	<p>1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile).</p> <p>2. There are TWO Sections. Each Section has TWO topics printed in English and Hindi. You have to write on 1 topic from Each part.</p> <p>3. One question in each part is compulsory.</p> <p>4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.</p> <p>7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.</p>
Q.1			
Q.2			
Total Marks:			
Remarks:			
Start Time 		End Time 	
Mode Of Examination :		Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>	
ECN CODE:		Evaluation Date:	

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MARKING SCHEME

<i>Parameter/Criteria</i>	<i>Aspects Considered</i>	<i>Total Marks</i>	<i>Essay 1</i>	<i>Essay 2</i>
Basic Format	Introduction + Conclusion	10		
	Body	15		
Content	Data/Facts/Interpretation/ Analysis	25		
Organisation	Flow of ideas/ Absence of Deviation from the topic	25		
Language Skills	Punctuation/Grammar/ Sentence Formation/Spellings	25		
Examiner's Discretion	Perception/ Innovation/ Engaging	25		

<i>Parameters</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Poor</i>
Coherence				
Language				
Handwriting				
Pre-writing				

<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>
120 and above	100-120	Below 100



SECTION/भाग - A

1. PRIs: Securing economic development and social justice.

पंचायती राज संस्थान : आर्थिक विकास और सामाजिक न्याय को सुनिश्चित करते हैं।

2. In the Indian context, both economics and technology are crucial in combating agrarian distress.

भारतीय संदर्भ में, कृषि संकट से निपटने के लिए अर्थशास्त्र और प्रौद्योगिकी दोनों महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

IN THE INDIAN CONTEXT, BOTH ECONOMICS AND TECHNOLOGY ARE CRUCIAL IN COMBATING AGRARIAN DISTRESS

When we think of agriculture, the first thing that comes to our minds is the famous song by Mahendar Kapoor in the movie 'Uptown' which goes like this.

'Mere Desh Ki Dharti Sona Ugle, Ugle Hara Moti'

(My country's land produces gold and diamonds)

Our agricultural land supports

49% of population. However the sector's contribution to Gross Value addition is just

17% creating Agrarian distress whose most

painful expression is in the form of Farmers' suicides across the country.

When our honourable Prime Minister gave a call for Doubling Farmers Income by 2022, his main aim was to alleviate this Agrarian distress. Combating it would not be possible with technology alone. In fact we would need a collaboration of economics and technology. Technology can give us GM crops, microirrigation, Precision irrigation etcetera but without consideration for structural transformation, marketing reforms and financial inclusion it would at best be just touching the peripheries. Agricultural Scientist Dr MS Swaminathan goes one step further and says we also need Sustainability to resolve the crisis.

GREEN REVOLUTION IN THE EAST

At present India has surplus

food production. This has been possible by the Green revolution, which was based on the idea of deliberate imbalance. High Yield Variety seeds with farm machinery and irrigation shot up wheat and rice production. However it remained confined to North West India and deltas of Krishna and Cauvery rivers. Our eastern region still lacks traditional technology and is reeling under distress. Spread of technology there can alleviate the pain of agrarian sector there.

NEW TECH AND AGROPRENEURS

Income of a farmer can be improved by reducing the costs of inputs and increasing returns from the agricultural produce. The inputs needed for a crop are seeds, irrigation, soil and labour.

Genetic engineering can produce durable seed varieties like Bt cotton

which reduces needs of pesticides. At the same time some fortified foods can be created such as Golden rice which improves the quality of produce and hence remuneration to the farmer.

However its utility is more for abiotic stress factors and limited for biotic ones as Dr MS Swaminathan argued in a recent paper. This is so as biotic factors have many known unknowns and also unknown unknowns. GM crops can adversely impact the local biodiversity of plants. Having said that, these unknowns should not stop progress of science. The cynicism about GM crops (eg refusal to introduce Bt Brinjal) can be resolved with creation of hybrids.

Precision Agriculture can also help rationalise the inputs. It can tell

what to apply, when to apply and where to apply. Microirrigation technology like drip irrigation, sprinkler etc. can rationalise the water usage. In our water stressed situation (Frankenmark Index of 1500/capita/year) there should be efficient utilisation of scarce resource.

Farm mechanisation can improve the productivity of our farm labourer. It reduces drudgery and increases production. India is largest producer of Tractors and farm equipment in the world. We can leverage it to create custom solutions such as female friendly machinery because we are experiencing feminisation of agriculture.

The technology as such is good but it is useless without its adoption

at scale. More than 85% of our farmers are small and marginal with small land holdings. Agriculture also has huge disguised unemployment.

In order to reduce the distress of country's Annadata we should also look at economics of agriculture.

PENDING LABOUR STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION

As an economy grows it transforms in its structure from Agriculture to industries and then services. In India capital has moved from primary to secondary and even tertiary sector. However labour continues to remain in Agriculture (49%).
Clearly we should

reform our secondary sector so that it can absorb surplus labour in agriculture sector. This would require focus on labour intensive sectors like jeans, textiles etc. and also on 'networked products' as the recent Economic Survey has highlighted.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Adoption of new technology would require availability of money in the hands of farmers. In India farmers have very low income. Even in today's world they depend on moneylenders. Formal financial institutes should reach farmers.

Farm loan waivers are only temporary solutions to the agrarian distress. We need innovative ways for financial inclusion of farmers. Regional rural banks

have to be complemented by Kisan Credit Cards.

GOVERNANCE REFORMS

Economics of agriculture is not inherently ~~for~~ loss making. It is due to governance failures that present state of distress has become the norm. Post 1990 economy grew at high pace but agriculture grew with just 3% growth rate.

This was due to governance failure. Farmers are restricted by APMC laws of the state. They have limited buyers of their produce resulting in low price. We should ~~increase~~ increase number of buyers of farm produce.

Agricultural market is plagued with innumerable intermediaries. There

is an urgent need to reform it so that farmers can get remunerative prices

There is also lack of market intelligence. This results in 'Cobweb phenomena' as recently seen in onion and pulses prices. When farmers get more prices from a crop all go on for producing it resulting in glut of supply next season and low prices to the produce.

BEYOND ECONOMICS AND TECHNOLOGY.

Economic reforms and technological solutions alone are insufficient to solve agrarian distress. Excessive use of technology has its own adverse affects.

Excessive fertilizer use in Punjab has poisoned the soils. The nondegradable organic material keep on

bioaccumulating along the food chain. This has resulted in various diseases like cancers affecting farmers in the region. In fact there is a train called 'Cancer Train' that takes patients to cancer hospital in Punjab.

CLIMATE CHANGE INDUCED DISTRESS

Climate change is turning into climate emergency as by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This is adversely impacting farmers livelihood.

Climate change induced variations in Monsoon

is impacting farmers according to Economic Survey.

The recent Locust attack on crops was also a result of climate change. Clearly, our agriculture would have to focus on Climate Resilient Agriculture.

The essay has clearly shown that combating agrarian distress is impossible with silo mentality. Technology alone or even with economics may not solve the distress. Climate change is a new vector in the equation. Government has taken steps towards all directions. Recently, government came with laws to liberalise the agrarian sector in India.

Ashok Gulati, a columnist of Indian express, has termed it a 1990

moment for agriculture. There are also schemes like PM-KISAN, PM-AASHA, eNAM which tries to tackle the distress in agriculture.

According to Ashok Dalwai

Committee on Doubling farmers income we
must increase our efforts by 33% to

achieve the goal. For climate change we

are returning to our traditional wisdom

like Zero Budget Natural farming. Farmer

distress requires a multipronged approach.

We should also think out of the box

like 'Converting Annadata into Urejadata'

under PM-KUSUM Yojana to resolve

and combat agrarian distress.



Feedback

Feedback to be provided in terms of (1) Introduction (2) Sentence Constructions (3) Paragraph Formation (4) Legibility (5) Deviation from Topic (6) Coverage of dimensions (7) Simplicity / ease of reading



SECTION/भाग - B

1. It is the power of the mind to be unconquerable.

यह मन की शक्ति ही है जो अजेय है।

2. Truth never damages a cause that is just.

सत्य कभी भी ऐसे कारण को क्षति नहीं पहुंचता जो उचित हो

IT IS THE POWER OF THE MIND TO BE
UNCONQUERABLE

Pakistani Taliban came up with a fatwa that no girl we receive education in the SWAT valley. However Malala Yousafzai continued to go to school. Taliban fighters decided to conquer this small girls mind by brute force. On 9 October, 2012 they stopped the bus in which she was going to attend the school and shot her in the head.

The girl battled with her willpowers and recovered from the wound. She

decided to continue reading and even promote girl education across the world. Having the distinction of the youngest Nobel Prize laureate is an apt symbol to demonstrate that the power of her mind is unconquerable even by the most cruel and deadly organisation.

This essay is an attempt to find out why power of mind is unconquerable. It elaborates on the examples from history to present where mind's resilience has been proven again and again. This awareness will help us to take steps to empower ourselves to defy the challenges in front of us.

MIND'S METTLE

Understanding the power of mind is a complex activity. It is not a

simple science rather something very complex to grasp. For this understanding we would have to look at the constituents of the mind power.

According to Swami Vivekananda having self-faith and confidence is key to success. This confidence will help us to work harder to solve our problems and reach our goals.

"Arise, Awake and stop not, till the goal is reached" - Swami Vivekananda.

This sustained effort is grounded in confidence. When Alexander of a small kingdom 'Macedonia' decided to conquer the whole world his self confidence was on display. He went on defeating

one empire after another including Persian empire. His conquest was halted only by 'Porus' of India. His armies lost the confidence and he was forced to come back again showing the role of self-faith.

THE MORAL COURAGE

The second element of power of mind is moral courage. Confidence can help in starting a task but when adversaries come in our path it is the moral courage of our intellect that helps us to move on.

Moral courage is different from physical courage. It is a more durable aspect on humanity and remains

with us despite our weak health or old age. However it is very rare.

"It is strange that physical courage is so ~~rare~~ common and moral courage so rare" — Mark Twain

When British East India Company conquered in colonised India we did show our physical courage in wars like Marathas, Mysore and even in 1857 war for Independence. However some sections like Zamindars lacked courage to defy the empire on which 'Sun never sets'. It was a physically flail Mahatma Gandhiji who demonstrated moral courage and helped us liberate from clutches of the foreign rule that too with 'Ahimsa' and Satyagraha.

THE CATEGORICAL IMPERATIVE

The third aspect of human mind is that it follows a divine command. According to Immanuel Kant there are two types of things in the world - those with whom monetary value can be ascribed and others which are beyond monetisation. The human mind belongs to the second type. It has dignity. This dignity helps it to follow a Categorical imperative even when he may be adversely impacted by the decision. There is intrinsic value to autonomy.

When India got Independence she decided to not allow herself be conquered by the ideologies of Capitalism or Communism. Pandit Nehruji decided to focus on 'Panchsheel' of Non Alignment Movement even when it angered both blocks. Even today India follows

Strategic autonomy in its diplomacy. Recently PM advocated 'Panchsheel' strategy to ensure Strategic Autonomy.

INNOVATION

The third pillar of power of mind lies in innovation. The common saying "Necessity is the mother of innovation" tells about mind's ability to come up with ideas to defy conquest.

When ISRO was denying cryogenic technology we created our own cryogenic engine. The GSLV vehicle runs on indigenous technology.

Similarly when COVID-19 pandemic reached India we created our own diagnostics and masks. My labs technologies developed RT-PCR test in a record time.

UNCONQUERABLE IN CONTEMPORARY TIMES

Humanity is experiencing new threats in today's world. It may appear that defeat is very much a ~~probab~~ reality staring us in our eyes. Climate emergency has the potential to even destroy of our existence. Multiple social evils like patriarchy, terrorism, majoritarianism etc are creating faultlines in our minds.

These challenges require that we empower our minds to solve them.

For climate emergency a science based response is the only way out. The

Paris Deal is power of minds. ~~It~~ It is under immense threat due to belatedness of certain developed countries. Recent election of Joe Biden as US President may be a glimmer of hope to revive the deal.

Solving our social problems would require empowering our mind with the help of value based education.

"Sa Vidhya Ya Vimuktaya"
(Education is the one which liberates us)

The present education system of India focuses excessively on rote learning. We should rather create an education system that empowers the women, strengthens the power of SCs and STs, and promotes social capital in

the society.

Having self confidence, courage and moral compass is key to make our country unconquerable. Despite the threats which are trying to conquer us by means of new modes like weaponisation of Global supply chain by China, ISIS using social media to radicalise our youth; we should focus on our own strength. Our power of mind lies in ~~Ata~~ Atmanirbhar Bharat with its pillars of System, Infrastructure, Demand, Economy and Demography. Then only will be remain unconquerable

→ X ————— X —————

Feedback

Feedback to be provided in terms of (1) Introduction (2) Sentence Constructions (3) Paragraph Formation (4) Legibility (5) Deviation from Topic (6) Coverage of dimensions (7) Simplicity / ease of reading

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Agrarian Distress

by Mahendra Kapoor

2.9%

Farmer suicide

✓ Doubling Farmers Income.

85%

Ashok Dalwai

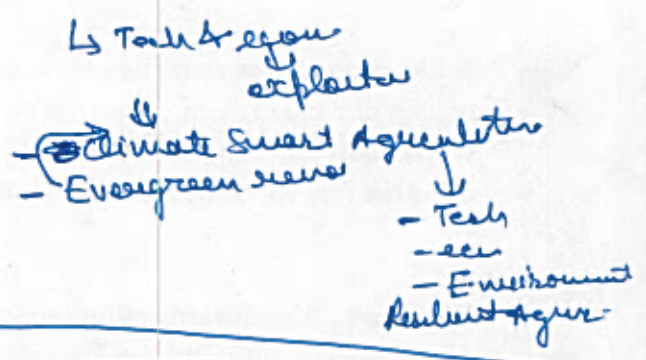
root cause of distress

- Economics
- structural Tea
 - Marketing reforms
 - Financial reforms
 - Awareness only.

- Technology
- GM
 - Micro
 - Precision Farming
- Input

1. Struct
2. Communication
- 3.

- ① Government reform
- ② Financial sector



Mahala Gaurangi

Nadia Muralidhar

9 October 2012

Swat

Anecdote

Explain

Examples = Alexander the Great
 = Chinggis Khan
 History → Gandhiji

power
↓
empowerment

Mind
↓
capability
- moral courage
- intellect

unconquered
↓
resilient

how to mind

In this essay we - explore how resilient people ..
 - sections of society

Necessity is mother of invention
 Vivekananda

India - Nations ⇒ strategic autonomy.
 - How to power → self confidence
 • Moral education

one pen one school
 Taleban

- ① Empowering ourselves
- ② Moral education to counter women struggle
- ③ Deontology means
- ④ Aspirational

1. Mind can solve problems
 2. won't accept defeat.

because → self confidence
 → Alexander The Great
 → 30 years Category
 → Moral courage

Arise Awake & stop Not till goal is achieved