

TEST CODE : 4 2 0 0 3

FIAS - MGP 2021 (C-6) - Essay Test #3

ForumIAS

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate

Sonali Dew

Roll No.

0807278

Date:

11/10/2021

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	<p>1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.</p> <p>2. There are TWO Sections. Each Section has MULTIPLE topics printed in English. 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> <p><i>Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/ Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.</i></p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p>
Q.1			
Q.2			
Total Marks:			
Remarks:			
For Student Only			
Start Time 11:00		End Time 2:00	
Mode Of Examination:		Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>	
For Office Use Only			
ECN CODE:		EG:	Evaluation Date:

MARKING SCHEME

Parameter/Criteria	Aspects Considered	Total Marks	Essay 1	Essay 2
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		

Parameters	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor
Coherence				
Language				
Handwriting				
Pre-writing				

Very Good	Good	Average
120 and above	100-120	Below 100



SECTION - A

1. Women Empowerment: An unfulfilled dream.
2. India's agrarian distress: Is farming a dying occupation?
3. Changing paradigms of federalism in India.
4. Has the era of deglobalisation begun?

India's Agrarian distress: farming a dying occupation

Prosperous agriculture has been a sin - qua - non for a prosperous state, the Necias pronounce "let everyone be happy"; "let everyone prosper". While the Quran paints a utopian picture of green fields and luscious vegetation as Heaven". Western philosophers have termed food as the basic necessity of life and placed it at the root of the needs hierarchy, while recent thinkers and Anthropologists like Juval Noah Harari have gone as far as saying that "Wheat has colonised man and not the other way round".

It is thus surprising and even disheartening to note the Agrarian Distress a country recording

one of the highest GDP growth rates in the world is undergoing an Agrarian Distress year after year.

There have been reports of farmer suicides, exploitation and even expropriation of land. Farmer's protest have been rampant yet only topical measures have been undertaken.

India: A unique case of development

The World Bank has argued that India exhibits a dual growth model and while it is classified in Drive towards maturity in terms of consumption growth of services, it remains in the pre-conditions to take off in the agricultural arena with pockets also displaying subsistence level of economy.

It would be a long stretch to criticise the current state of distress without first separating the causes that beleaguered the Indian farmer. India's colonial history serves as a starting point or "critical juncture".

according to nobel laureate 'Daron Ace Moglu' that shifted the focus from food crops to commercial crops unaccompanied by gross capital formation in Agriculture which was in stark contrast with European nations. The one way free trade further made agriculture subsistence in nature and shut the doors of forward and backward linkages with the industry, who themselves were in shambles.

A hurried shift to heavy industrialisation in the second five year plan left agriculture with fundamental flaws which were only later covered up by subsidies, bail out and relief packages. After facing a food security crisis, and unreliance of P2-470 grants from USA we ushered in the green revolution. The green revolution, being a package technology pushed up the output but also the input cost, effectively excluding the small and marginal farmers.

from the gain it had to offer.

'Agricultural Distress: A current stocktake'

The Agricultural dilemma of Inputs, Institutions and Investment ~~se~~ have been the focus of successive governments, however there remains a purple patch in their effective functioning: Structural problems.

Land continues to be fragmented with 85% held by small and marginal farmers. Faulty agricultural practices of growing water intensive crops like sugarcane in low critical areas of India Gandhi Canal have further depleted water availability. Fertilizer use has been undiscriminate leading to soil acidity and permanent loss of soil productivity. Pesticides and Insecticides remain costly and lack of it makes crops vulnerable to pest attacks.

Misinformation and lack of awareness of soil health, seed replacement have caused farmers to take up

humongous losses rendering them incapable to garner enough surplus to invest in the next cropping cycle.

Agricultural credit penetrations remain low and scattered and farmers are forced to borrow at 'usurious rates' from local money lenders, insurance remains unheard of and those enrolled at insurance schemes have never been able to recover their losses. The hegemony of APMC mandis further cartelises the market and the farmer is forced to sell of his produce with little to spare, let alone invest in his fields or his or his offspring's wellbeing.

COVID 19 : Reforms and Reverses

With the becllam of COVID-19 the country witnessed a new phenomenon of reverse migration back to the villages. Agriculture acted as an absorber of unemployment. The periodic

labour force data however shows a different picture, 'unemployment rates had decreased', however a deeper analysis revealed that the increase in employment was due to shift from salaries, self employed to agriculture, thus highlighting the issue of disguised unemployment.

With the recent push of Atma-nirbhar Bharat, there has been a rejuvenated focus in addressing the infrastructural gaps in agriculture and a host of funds, functions and functionaries have been kept aside. The agricultural infrastructure fund, formalisation of food processing enterprises, Agri-export policy have started the slow but required intervention.

There has been a renewed push for dryland agriculture, organic farming (due to better eating habits)

that have led to diversification of crop produce, uptake of allied farm activities like animal rearing, livestock and poultry that have the ability to cushion the farmer's income to vagaries of the monsoon while also expanding markets for better price discovery.

Farming a dying occupation to a living one

Farming was expounded as a dying occupation both literally and figuratively due to the huge farmer suicides and the huge outmigration from rural areas towards the cities. In contrast farming has been a rich man's business in the west Europe and Great plains of USA, refuting the faulty assumption that it cannot be made remunerative.

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Closer home, a few model villages have paved the way and emerged as leaders in remunerative farming. Huzare Bazaar, made headlines as the little unknown village transformed itself from one of the poorest pockets of dryland 'Nidaula' infamous for later suicides to a village burgeoning with millionaire farmers with 54+ young agri-preneurs.

It wasn't a day's job or one's man work, streams were revived through intense rainwater harvesting, shelter belts were planted, farmers persuaded to grow more climate friendly crops, horticulture introduced, MNREGA funds were used to create market facilities, rural roads, common service centers, SHCs were mobilised to set up food processing plants

at home and allied agriculture was made popular with the landless. The vicious cycle of poverty was thus reversed to the virtuous cycle of wealth and development. It would only be an understatement, to say that the village reported better health, education, literacy outcomes, with growth development followed. ~~It~~

Outmigration was considerably lowered, families got back together again and youth train themselves to be better food producers than dwell away to nearby cities in search of menial jobs.

Recently, another village made the headlines when farmers reported stable and better earnings with better nutritional outcomes at Dundori village. The village women started making Kodo, Kutki

nutritional bars from millets that require less water, less rainfall and can even grow on hardy soils.

They say, necessity is the mother of all innovations, ~~while~~ ^{and} the most backward district of the country undertook Quail farming instead of poultry, in Koraput district of Odisha. The villagers were able to continue their profession despite the lockdowns imposed by the state that disrupted poultry supply chains.

Agriculture: foundation of a strong economy.

With half of India's population engaged in Agriculture, it makes little economic as well as social prudence to keep the base of our economy on a swaddling ground.

Structural Agri-reforms require an urgent intervention to make farming remunerative. Our minds tell us and history testifies that a nation cannot prosper if there is no food growing in our fields.

The collapse of Harappa, the fall of Rome, the attack of the French Bastille all started with agrarian distress.

The Reforms though required shouldn't be a copy-paste of the western model but should be adapted to our local ecological requirements while keeping in mind the socio economic realities of the ground. Conservation agriculture should be promoted in ecologically fragile areas of Himalayas while, less water extensive crops should be promoted for exports.

Food security should be assured to everyone in order to persuade

farmers of backward, dryland areas to grow agroecologically suited crops rather than rice-wheat cereals.

MSP's should be rationalised to ensure they don't create a cob web cycle of production and extension services should be undertaken by local bodies at district, zila level.

Agriculture provides the economy a strong foundation like sequoia rooted in the ground, atop of which can other sectors flourish. Thus it is vital that we institutionalise the motto of "jai jaiwan, jai kisan" in our policies and implementation.

India's agrarian distress forming a dyer's scapery

1. unique case (edu) diff. is state benefit of
2. distress → supply chain. why & how? → historical / fragment
3. weak linkages → low investment + vicious cycle / subsidies
4. reliance → jobs, emp. food sec. PL-480. history. backward areas - subsidies.
5. farming dying → literally / fig. institutional / migration. subsidies support → shift.
6. end consequence: how to reach / nobility / money / end / adding fuel to fire: jayanti / labour / money / end / Extension / remain most backward part.

(8) reverses → central / Hware / buy / quality / fair.

International → FAO → commercial vs sustainable → more / sustainable agri + subsidies. tell us / history / reports / like / underdeveloped / jai jaman / fair / kerala / test / call.

agri to the currency: like sepiu / rook / in / the / ground / (as / stay / in / the / ground / line) (1/2)

→ classification / agro ecological.

→ what / measure / let / all / the / best / green. + authentic / 5 / which / is / used / in / the / world / and / the / ...

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 - B

1. Happiness is when what you think, what you say and what you do are in harmony.
2. Consideration for others is the basis of a good life and good society.
3. Our greatest ability as humans is not to change the world, but to change ourselves.
4. The virtue of justice consists in moderation, as regulated by wisdom.

"Our greatest ability as human is not to change the world, but to change our selves".

"Buran dekhan mai Chala,
bura na milya koi,
jo dil khoja apna,
mujhe bura na koi"

Kabir, the revered saint of Indian renaissance wrote that when he started to focus on wrongdoings in the world, he realised his all the negativity lay inside him.

Man's greatest ability: To Thank!
Descartes propounded that the

only thing he is certain of in the world is his existence which can only be proved by his ability to think! To realise ones own shortcomings and faults and be willing to work upon it is the trait of a wise man. While everything else, external to ourselves seems to be following the paradigms of the world, we can only master our thoughts, beliefs and actions and shape them in the right direction.

Jyotirmay once said, "be the change you want to be" suggesting that to start with ourselves, should be stepping stone we ourselves for the world. It is futile to expect courtesy in the face of rudeness, or respect in turns for despise. Our attitude towards others are more often than not a reflection of our own attitude towards.

ourselves.

Change: The only Constant

The Earth didn't take its present form just immediately, just 4 billion years ago, it was just a ball of hot magma, that adapted and changed to the conditions to form the air we now breathe.

Adaptation to change has also been used into us, Nerves mutate and animals hibernate,

On a much smaller scale, we continuously adapt and change to whatever life throws at us.

History, is a testament to the mantra of "Change or Perish" with fall of kingdoms, religions and rise of new ones. Our ability as Humans, to think not only individually but also collectively

pushes us towards changing those who do not think, look or talk like us.

"The Thirst to change the world, a brief history"

Religious missionaries were vital in setting up trading links that later led to colonialisation. Our vision to change the world have led to important discoveries like penicillin but have also been overshadowed by our thirst for supreme power like Hitler's vision of the Aryan race.

The Europeans in India, advocated for social reforms like banning of sati, female remarriage, however did little to change their own discriminatory attitude towards

the Indians. While Racism remained rampant under the notion of "white man's burden" in the barracks of the company's army, they had to pay heavily even the revolt of 1857.

Our thirst to change the world without introspecting on our own selves have more often than not been a recipe for disaster.

Double standards and the eye standard effect in play

Human, morals, values, wisdom is the culmination of our environment, life experiences, social institutions and societal norms, they differ from group to group and region to region. It is difficult for anyone group to criticise his/her beliefs and difficult to appreciate the other. This has added fuel to global

problems of wars, terrorism, communalism and mistrust with factions of a society. However, to rule out any shortcomings in one's own would be a fool's parody.

As Rhodesy Stark observes a society or religion will only continue to flourish as long as it remains relevant, as soon as it stops providing answers to our questions it will be helped out. The Indian culture has able to stand the test of time only because it kept pace with times and changed itself by syncretising and assimilating contradictory beliefs while not enforcing its own beliefs on others.

It is said that "Charity starts at home"; it's also proven

that children brought up in homes with high respect for women grow up to be more conscientious for the opposite gender. Only once we change our beliefs and thoughts can we expect others to do so ourselves thus avoiding hypocrisy, double standards and peace of mind.

While Rome wasn't built in a day, to expect to change the world towards a better self is futile without first initiating the change from within. A rolling stone can cause a turbulence and a ripple effect would automatically follow.

Behavioural change campaigns like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, rely on volunteers and ground work institutions that are

able to effectively break the vicious cycle of the bystander effect, waiting for someone else to take charge.

It takes not only courage, but also time and effort to speak against the world's wrong, but a small step can start a stampede. Had not Greta Thunberg started the Friday for change movement governments all over the world wouldn't have woken up to the darkest call of climate change.

However, to expect the world to change without implementing it on our own soil seldom works. To, ask for global trade promotion while following protectionist trade policies, would only backfire as seen with plurilateral agreements and multilaterals outside the WTO.

Change for the good not bad.

However, to change oneself is not to say, to fall into regressive thoughts because of convenience or quick gratification of our efforts. It doesn't mean to be a pushover and not stand up for your thoughts. "Simon Biles

The young Olympian Champion" was body shamed and even discouraged from stepping down from the championship by her own coach. However, she mustered enough courage to not only win the medal but also become an advocate for anti racism and healthy body image.

After the Cold war, India took a stance at the global high table

to not join any of the cold war superpowers. It took grit, courage and commitment in the belief of a multipolar world. The Non aligned movement in its own merit prevented another war, that would have been disastrous for the newly independent countries.

A change in the right direction:
Ripple effect

Mathematicians have modelled that a butterfly's flap of wings could create a force strong enough to cause a hurricane at the other end of the world. While this may be an exaggeration, a step in the right direction can go a long way.

After facing, horrendous loss of life and property after the second

world war. Japan denounced the policy of war and imbedded in its constitution. This had encouraged governments to form a global body and the United Nations was born.

India's no first use policy and unwavering commitment to a nuclear free world has encouraged global treaties to move towards the utopian dream without the fissures of nuclear haves and have nots.

To disregard and shun the optimism of not being able to change the world would ~~be~~ not be fair, as this optimism is what keeps the fuel ignited towards self change and betterment. However, such a vision should be treasured

with caution of not falling into
the cycle of ~~my~~ majoritarian
rule over the minorities, or a
pompous belief in ~~on~~ the
superiority of one's beliefs and
thoughts.

Change is inevitable and the best
time to make a change is now,
and the best place to work on it
is one self"

greatest ability, not to change the world but ourselves.
 ↳ human race / individual / society.
 ↳ knowledge, morals, values, wisdom, means-time
 money, influence, power, minority.
 ↳ change the world → evils, probs. uncertainty,
 ↳ our selves → Descartes → wise: class knows nothing.
 ↳ Kabir → Jivan Mukti → change you want to be
 ↳ better person everyday
 ↳ ripple effect: butterfly effect: step by step.
 ↳ non can change the world: optimism (some change is not no change)
 ↳ not change in negative way, pushover, fight back, swim, bees.

↳ adaptation
 ↳ subcult
 ↳ mutation.
 ↳ culture / religion
 ↳ religious economy
 ↳ Khichay
 ↳ Buddhism.
 ↳ near renunciation
 ↳ Japrom.
 ↳ NAM: India
 ↳ pushing for reforms.
 ↳ university.
 ↳ reforms
 ↳ Ambedkar
 ↳ Caste

Feedback

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