

TEST CODE : 4 1 0 5 3

FIAS - MGP 2021 (C-6) – GS Test #7

ForumIAS

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	PRASSANAKUMAR.V		
Roll No.	1910050245	Date:	15/11/2021

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 TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH, all questions are compulsory.</p> <p>3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</p> <p>4. 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>5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. 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> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p>
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
Total Marks:			
Remarks:			
For Student Only			
Start Time 7.00 AM		End Time	
Mode Of Examination:		Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
For Office Use Only			
ECN CODE:		EG:	Evaluation Date:

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Presentation						
Handwriting						
Content						
Attempt						

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Q.1) Examine the various issues impeding effective functioning of the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and suggest the reforms which can be undertaken to resolve such issues. (10 marks, 150 words)

The CAG is regarded as the guardian of the public purse as he/she undertakes audit of all the funds used out of Consolidated Fund of India (Art 148)

Various issues

1. mostly post-mortem actions (after spending)
2. no punitive powers for misallocations
3. mostly political appointee as there is no committee to ensure impartial candidate.
4. Proprietary audit is not done in many cases leading to shirking of responsibilities.
5. sometimes while assigning 3rd party audits to PSUs there are chances of corruption
6. Poorly trained manpower.

Measures to improve :-

1. A committee consisting of Leader of opposition and other neutral offices like CJI should appoint CAG.
2. Man power should be better trained to increase the scope of proprietary audit.
3. Pre-allocation appraisal (comptroller) function should be started for more effective control.
4. There should be separate executive machinery to look into issues in CAG report and to enforce valid recommendations.

Only a powerful watchdog (empowered CAG) can enforce real accountability which can reduce corruption, leakage & enhance efficient use of public money.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.2) In addition to the 'more jobs for women' approach, increasing the female labour force participation in India requires the policymakers to assess and address the structural issues which prevents women from entering and staying in the workforce.

Examine.

(10 marks, 150 words)

As per ILO report, the FLFPR of India is less than 23%. while in countries like China it is more than 50%.

Also other issues like (structural issues)

1. Less pay for women
 2. hostile working conditions
 3. poor social security
 4. Hiring women more costly
- ⇒ needs to be addressed holistically.

Only more jobs approach → can increase quantitatively the number of working women

But the quality of jobs may remain poor and in long run → women may be forced ~~to~~ to withdraw from labour participation.

So, we need to address the structural issues to enhance women labour participation sustainably.

Structural issue	How to address	Benefits
1. Pay as per work + equal pay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * statutory minimum wages should be revised periodically * enforce strictly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Women may feel empowered + not exploited
2. Working conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * workplace safety (even extended workplace like Bus etc..) * Fixing and enforcing max. no. of working hours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * more women may feel secure and participate
3. Social Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Paid maternity leave even in informal sector, * addition leaves to cope with Biological cycles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Will not stop women from continuing the job
4. Cost of hiring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * even Paternity leave for men * Fixing working hours for both men + women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Makes all labour hiring equal (so equal chances for ♀)

→ The new labour codes + social security acts should account for these changes to increase FLFPR.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.3) How far do you agree that rising vacancies in Central and State Information Commissions, coupled with the delays in responding to appeals is withering away the spirit of the Right to Information Act? Suggest some measures to fix the issues associated with the RTI Act. (10 marks, 150 Words)

The RTI Act was the step towards increasing transparency and accountability to ensure good governance.

Issue in RTI Act	How it decreases the spirit of RTI Act	Measures to fix it.
<p><u>Large vacancies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piles up cases • difficult to stick to RTI time line of <u>30 days</u> • poor quality of PIOs will not be addressed 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delays in RTI upens 2. People loose trust in RTI machinery 3. Purpose of transparency & accountability will be lost. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. separate task force to fill vacancies as and when it occurs on a <u>permanent basis</u> eg: ex officio offices like CJI/Homs minister etc. 2. <u>Digital monitoring system</u> of tenure of people expiring & associated timebound recruitment. 3. Making govt. <u>accountable by courts</u> for not filling vacancies.

Delay in responding to appeals.

① De-moralizes public interest for people filing RTI.

② PIOs accountability reduces leading to poor replies for RTI application

③ RTI stuck with red-tapism is another inefficient machinery just leading to over burdening of govt. offices.

① Enforce time bound nature of RTI process by fixing measures like fines on CIC / IC & etc...

② Use sec 4 of RTI Act more efficiently (voluntary disclosure) to reduce RTI burden

③ Weeding out unnecessary RTIs by a separate mechanism + punitive action on such individuals

apart from these

- ← Poor record keeping
- ← use of Official secrets Act, 1923
- ← Poor skill of PIOs
- ← ill-motivated public filing RTI just to harass officers etc

are the other issues which has to be fixed for making RTI a truly fundamental right.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.4) While NGOs collaborate with governments in numerous instances to bring about social transformation, failure to maintain neutrality and autonomy have severely compromised their legitimacy. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 Words)

NGOs are a part of the civil society actively engaged in grass root empowerment and to fill the void where govt. is not accessible.

NGOs collaborating with govt:-

1. Chipko movement for preserving Himalayan landscape.
2. Various NGOs providing supporting the poor during COVID + other crisis.
3. NGOs working with Women + child ministry for better support of the vulnerable population.

Failure to maintain neutrality

1. IB report → various NGOs are funded from abroad to disrupt economic activities by like activism etc. (estimate 2% GDP loss)
2. NGOs affiliated to power houses + political masters use this route in money laundering.

3. Corruption + inefficiency in NAOs can lead to people ~~questing~~ questioning their legitimacy.

4. NAOs have a major role to play in social empowerment + holding govt. accountable and hence proper mechanism to ensure their transparency and accountability like the recent FCRA amendment Act, Darpan portal are in the right direction.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.5) Evaluate the role played by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in preserving the principle of universality and inviolability of child rights. Suggest measures to strengthen the commission towards fulfilling its responsibilities.

(10 marks, 150 Words)

NCPCR was formed in India in achieving child rights as India is a signatory of UN convention on child rights.

Evaluation of Role of NCPCR :-

1. Accessibility

- ⊕ separate body has strengthened the cause of child rights
- ⊖ lack of awareness how to approach still prevails

2. Affordability

- ⊕ • suo-moto application of laws
- power of civil court makes it cheaper for common citizens.
- ⊖ • In case of appeal, Judiciary is still expensive for common man
- most verdicts of NCPCR are advisory

Overall, India has done well in the past few years in protection of child rights :-

- better gross enrollment ratio in primary schools (>98% in ASER 2020)
- reducing malnutrition levels (NFHS-5 data)

But still, child trafficking, violence against children are a concern which shows NCPER is not 100% effective yet.

Measures

1. Better co-ordination with state machinery
2. Separate investigation/prosecution wing for NCPER
3. Awareness + online grievance redressal mechanisms like 1098, Aarambh initiative should be spread.

Only a child realizing his/her rights will make India a developed nation in future.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.6) The New Education Policy, 2020 has the potential to transform India from being a "degree hungry nation" to becoming a global hub of knowledge and skill, making it an "employable nation". Critically evaluate. (10 marks, 150 Words)

The NEP 2020 is seen as a game changer as it tries to break the silos and degree oriented education and transform India into a true knowledge hub.

How it proposes to change?

1. Academic bank where a student is free to choose subjects of interests & specialize in it.
2. Multiple exit options at graduation provides freedom and choice towards skill development.
3. Proposes to integrate Universities with foreign institutions for better research and skill development.
4. Even graduation in vernacular language (like Engineering) will increase understanding rather than rote-learning.

5. Integration of humanities + science will widen scope in a globalized world → better employment opportunities.

challenges still remain:-

1. Exam and syllabus still play a major role → needs to be up to date
2. more focus should be on entrepreneurship which can drive → jobs + technology
3. Issues like "3 language" formula getting politicized may be a road block in implementing NEP 2020.

Since 1986, there is no major educational policy change in a fast changing global outlook. NEP 2020 will be the key to unlock the potential of India's demographic dividend.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

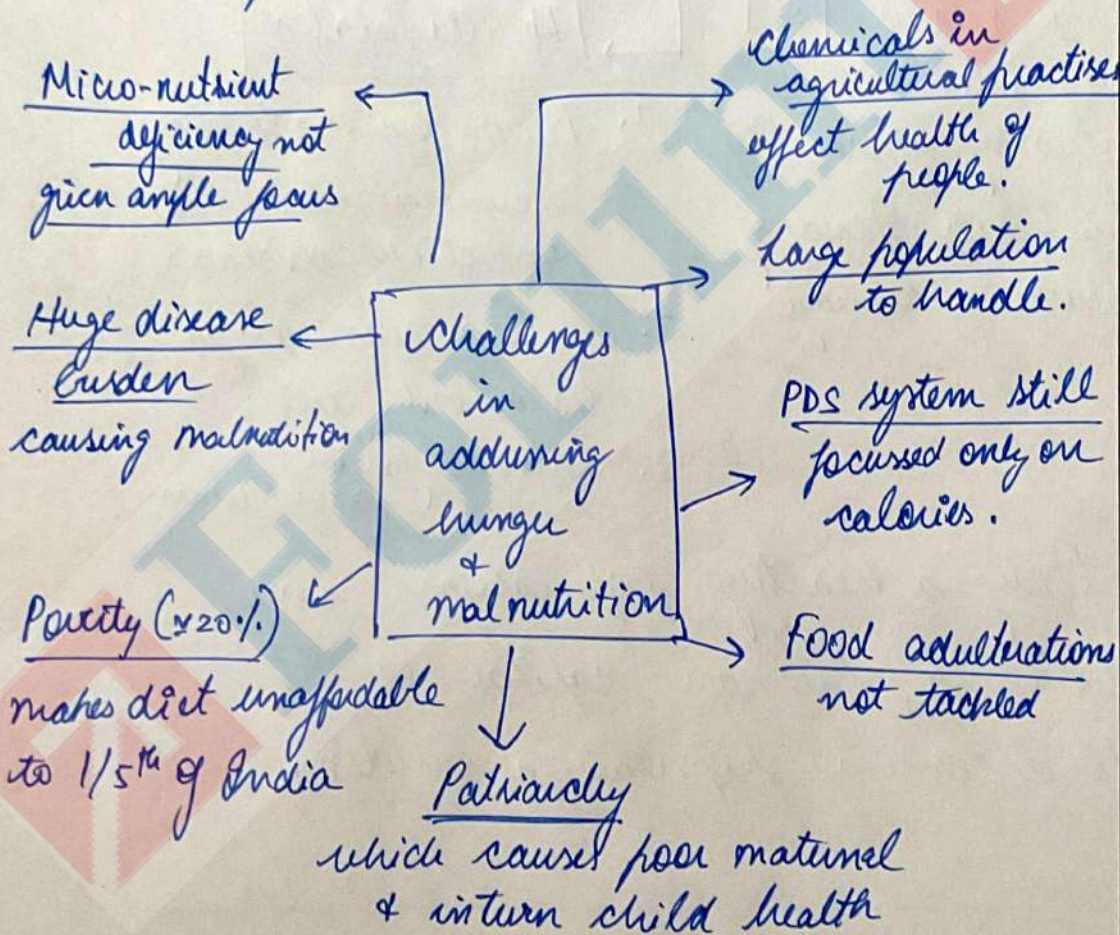
Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

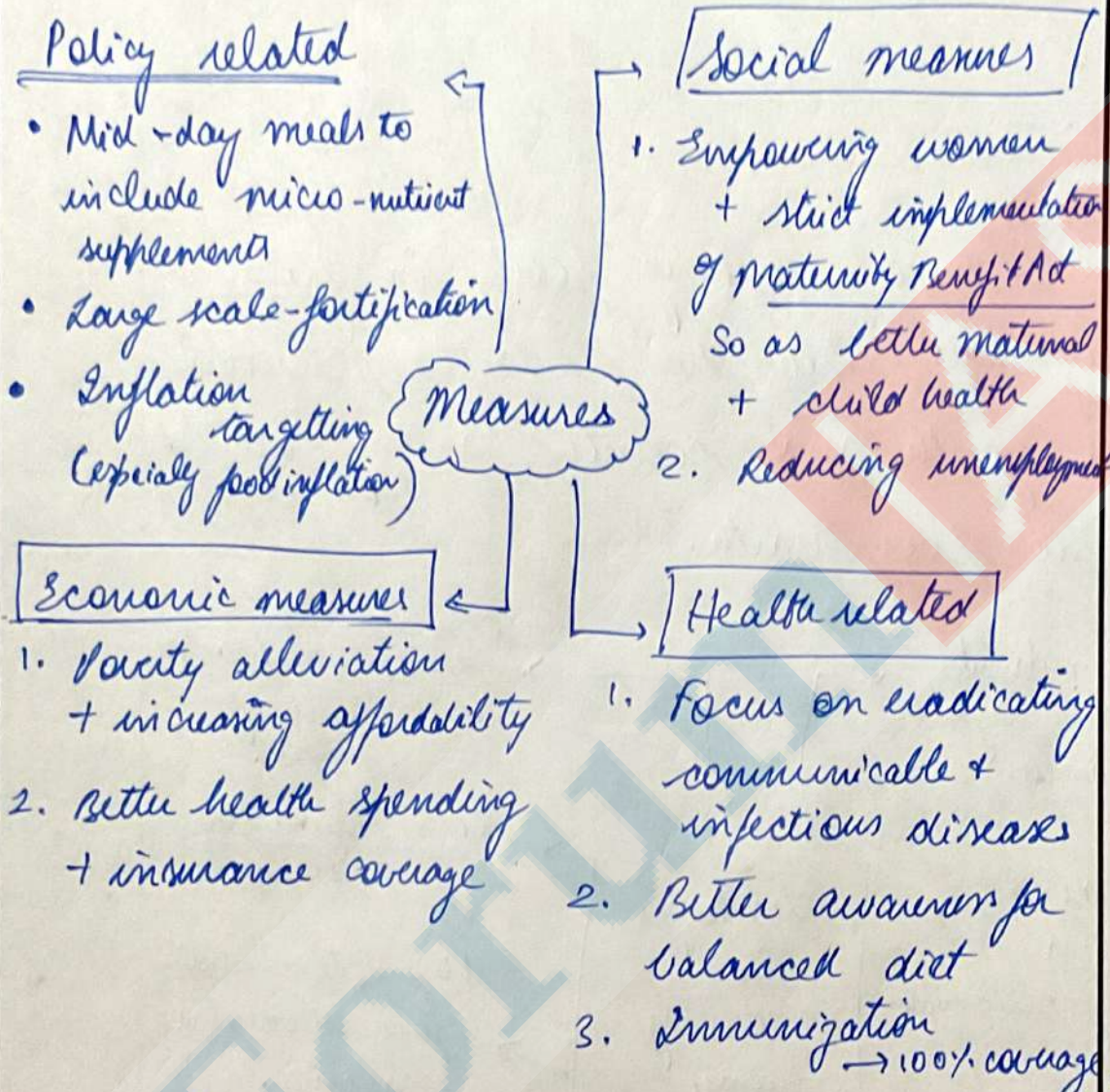


Q.7) "Hunger and undernutrition cannot be fixed by calorie provision alone. Institutions need to collate making balanced healthy diets which are climate-friendly, affordable, and accessible to all," In this context, highlight the challenges associated with addressing hunger and malnutrition in India and suggest measures to address the same.

(10 marks, 150 Words)

India ranking poorly in global hunger index shows the untapped potential of our youth and country getting wasted due to poor health.





Only a healthy population can become a human capital or it shall become a population burden.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.8) Highlight the structure and mandate of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). Also, discuss the criticisms levelled against the working of the UNHRC in recent times. (10 marks, 150 Words)

UNHRC which was the successor of old committee on UN-Human Rights (UNCHR) was formulated with a mandate :-

1. To uphold UN-Human Rights Conventions
2. To secure peace and to end exploitations.

Structure of UNHRC :-

1. It has about 47 members from various regions of the world elected by UNGA.
2. Every country (member) has 1 vote
3. Its recommendations are advisory in nature.

Criticisms in recent times :-

1. Voting takes place based on political lineages rather than to uphold human Rights. eg: Violations in Afghanistan, Syria were not acted upon due to global geo-politics

2. No proper mechanisms to implement its decisions.

eg: In spite of being accused of Human Rights violations, Sri Lanka did not accept for external investigations.

way forward :-

1. Principles based on which violations occur should be made foundational principles → if violated → prosecution should occur despite geo-politics.
2. Separate mechanism to implement sanctions if a country does not abide by UN HRC.

Human rights are the basic tenets on which global peace and development can be ensured and hence, effective working of UNHRC should become global priority.

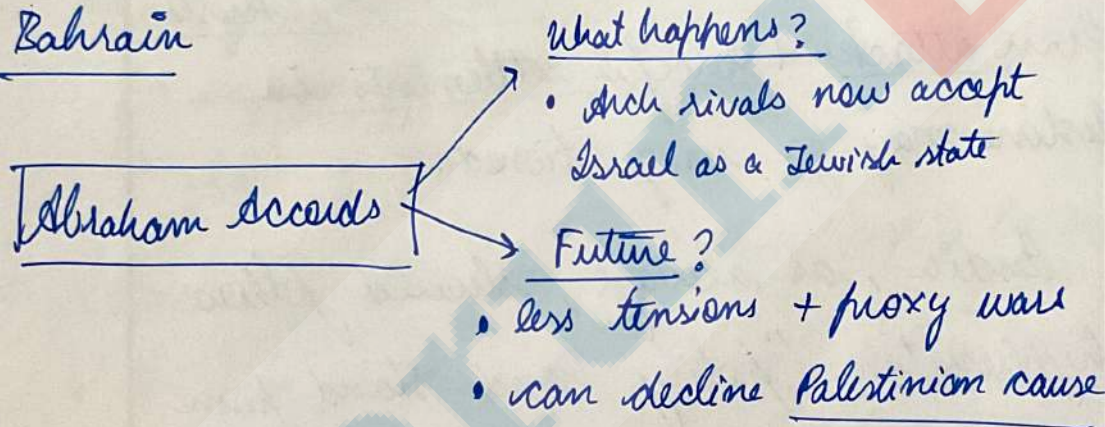
Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.9) India has strong, multifaceted and growing engagements with Israel as well as the Gulf countries. In the light of this statement, analyze the implications of the Abraham Accord on India's interest. (10 marks, 150 Words)

Abraham accords are a set of agreements to normalize diplomatic ties between Israel and few Islamic West Asian countries like UAE, Jordan and Bahrain



Implications on India's interests :-

① Interests in Israel :-

1. can boost our ties both with Israel + Arab world
2. Makes our trade easier
3. Diplomacy and regional ties of India easier to formulate
4. Can increase our trade & remittances.

② Interests in Palestine

1. As a founder of NAM + peace loving nation, India was one among early nations to voice for Palestinians

now → support of Islamic world may be lost

→ India may be forced to attach more to Israel + West Asia due to National interests

→ Even attacks + forceful settlements in Palestine may go unquestioned.

India, as always, should follow "De-hyperation" policy and stand firm by 2-nation theory as both Israel and Palestine are like 2 eyes and we can never sacrifice one for the other.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.10) The strategic underpinnings of India's current neighborhood policy are driven by both external and internal imperatives. Examine. (10 marks, 150 Words)

India's Neighbourhood first policy has involved various diplomacies and undercurrents based on various factors.

External imperatives influencing our policy

1. Forced friendship with Pakistan

↳ in form of Shanghai Cooperation Organization
↳ part of Afgan talks

2. Maintaining close ties with China despite border issues

- RIC/BRICS/SCO etc. formats where India and China are seen as future powerhouses.
- To solidify developing countries interests + our aspirations

3. Sometimes, the external imperatives cannot trump our regional interests.

eg: A) Despite western pressure, India has never openly accused Myanmar on Rohingya issue, or military coup.

B) Similarly, India never criticized Sri Lanka for human rights violations

Internal imperatives

1. Many places, Nation's internal interests formulate even our Neighbourhood policies
 - A) Despite issues, India and Pakistan review Indus water treaty and its implementation every year
 - B) Closeness with Myanmar is never compromised as their cooperation is essential to suppress North East internal security threats. eg: hot pursuit against NSCN.
 - C) Bhutan and Nepal are always treated with priority as they have many Indians and their presence.
 - D) Despite close trade relations, aggressive stance in Doklam (2017), Galum Vally (2020), India proved sovereignty comes before everything.

Hence, our foreign policy has various influences, but Nations' interest alone finally guides it.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.11) Highlight the various provisions of disqualifications under the Representation of People Act, 1951. How far do you think it has helped in dealing with the issue of criminalization of politics? (15 marks, 250 words)

The representation of peoples' Act, 1951 (RPA) has been the bedrock to ensure free and fair elections in India.

Various provisions for disqualifications :-

1. Section 123 → promoting hatred/enmity will lead to disqualification
2. Sec 8 → if sentenced for 2 years & above → disqualified for additional 6 years
3. if contesting > 2 seats for MCA/MP
4. Spending more than the limit authorized by Election Commission
5. Falseful declaration of assets/details during filing of nominations.
6. Sec 324-A → using muscle power to capture booths.
By and large it helps to contain electoral malpractices.

How far it has addressed criminalization of politics?

It has reduced criminalization

By giving more powers to courts / Election Commission
eg: Lily Thomas case upheld by disqualification for convicted criminals

It gives clear guidelines to be followed & reduced the instances like booth captures

It has led to clear and transparent declaration of assets / criminal records of all candidates → People can think and vote now.

But, as per current Lok Sabha, 43% of MPs have criminal records.

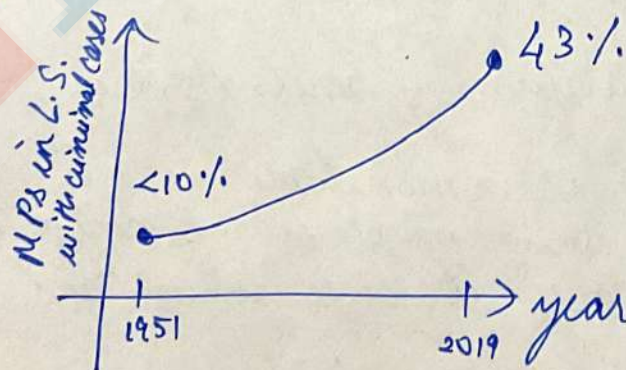


Fig shows increased criminalization in L.S.

This shows RPA 1951, has not been able to prevent criminalization because :-

1. Vote influences using fake news / media are not covered as offences
2. Every time courts need to step in while election commission has been not able to curb corruption eg: Reports of money for vote are increasing.
3. Most of the violations are under model code of conduct which is dealt with election commission penalties but not disqualification.

By and large India has sustained as the biggest democracy with free and fair elections, but with progressive amendments of RPA to include money for vote etc. it can go a long way to reduce criminalization of politics.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.12) The Election Commission of India has played an instrumental role in executing the electoral process through periodically innovating, strengthening and reinforcing electoral rules. Elucidate. (15 marks, 250 words)

The constitutional body of Election Commission of India (ECI) has played a major role to uphold free and fair elections (Art 324) in the largest democracy.

Periodical innovation :-

1. Model Code of Conduct :- (MCC)
 - * innovation for faster implementation of ECI rules + maintaining level playing field
2. Electronic Voters Machine (EVM) :-
 - * to avoid fake ballots
3. VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper audit trail) :-
 - * to ensure accountability of EVMs
4. Updating MCC as per current requirements
 - * like even advertisements in social media are now under MCC.

Strengthening and re-inspiring electoral rules

1. Pushing Parliament to amend Representation of peoples Act, 1951 → to curb muscle power, to curb criminalization etc.
2. Online complaints portal for enforcing Model Code of Conduct.
3. Disqualification of contestants where and when they violate election rules.

Also, even ⁱⁿ recent times ECI has pushed for online voting for NRIs and also for looking into Blockchain technology for digital voting.

Under Article 324, the sole ambit of free and fair elections rests with ECI which it has used in a favourable manner to innovate and

Strengthen election rules.

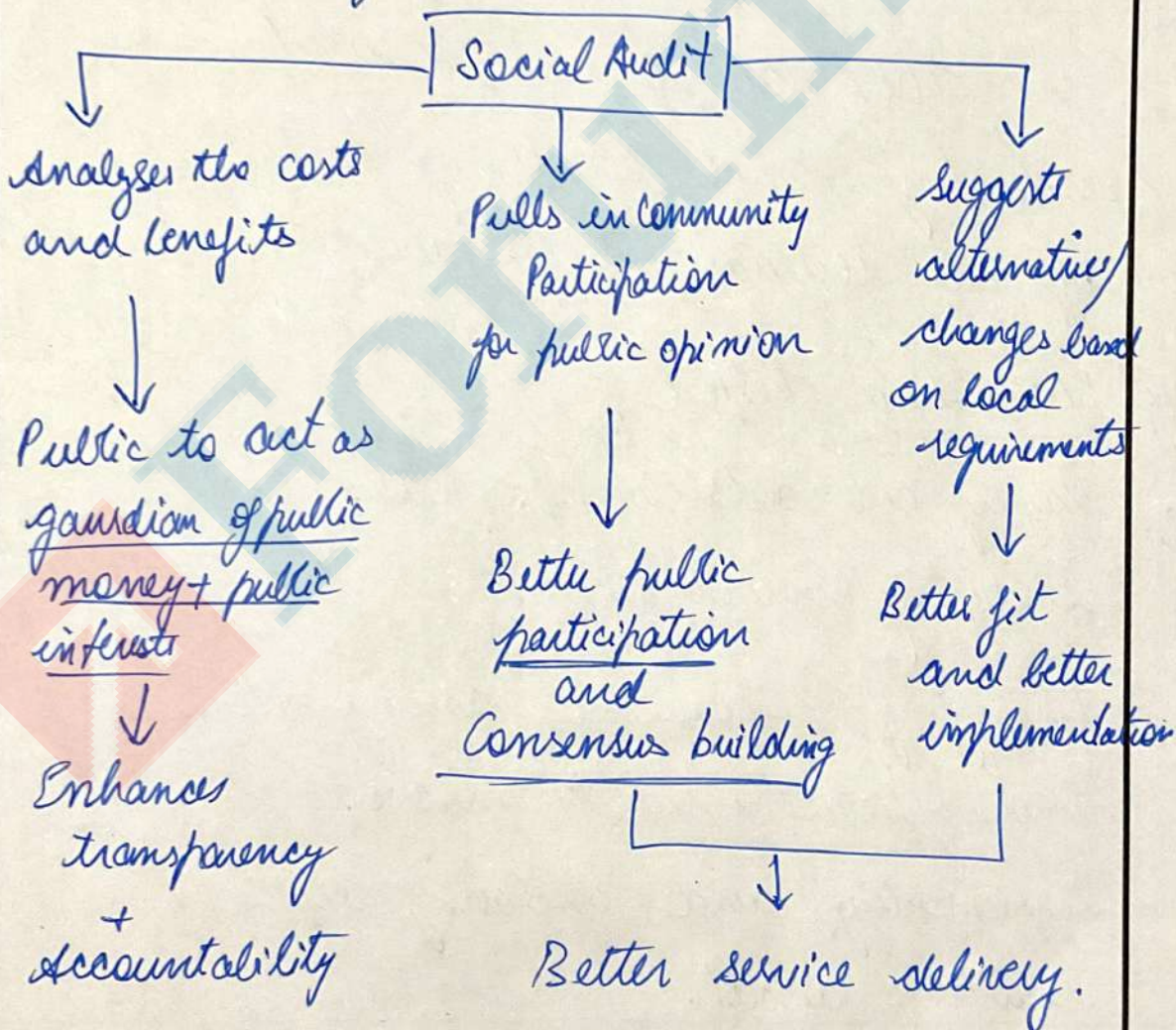
Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.13) Discuss how Social Audits could act as an effective tool in ensuring transparency and improving the service delivery of public programmes. Critically examine how Social Audit Units (SAUs) have aided in this process? (15 marks, 250 words)

Social Audit is a mechanism by which the public scutinize the public projects / infrastructure / schemes based on the advantages, disadvantages and challenges.



Example :-

Inspite of huge opposition to Kudankulam Nuclear power plant in Tamil Nadu, social audit proved the real aspirations of local people which made the project successful.

Social Audit Units :- (SAU)

These are specialized units in conducting and sensitizing people and officials towards social audits.

How SAU's have helped ?

1. Laying out detailed procedure for conducting Social audit.
2. Bringing consensus among citizens and officials about the process.
3. Implementing and declaring the results of audit.

Despite such huge role of SAUs, they have few challenges like

1. Financial dependence on govt. entities
2. Corruption → modifies real audit
3. huge vacancies + non permanent nature.

The need of the hour is well organised and independent SAUs and statutory backing of social audit (eg: Meghalaya) so as to ensure accountability, \$ and better service delivery ensuring good governance.

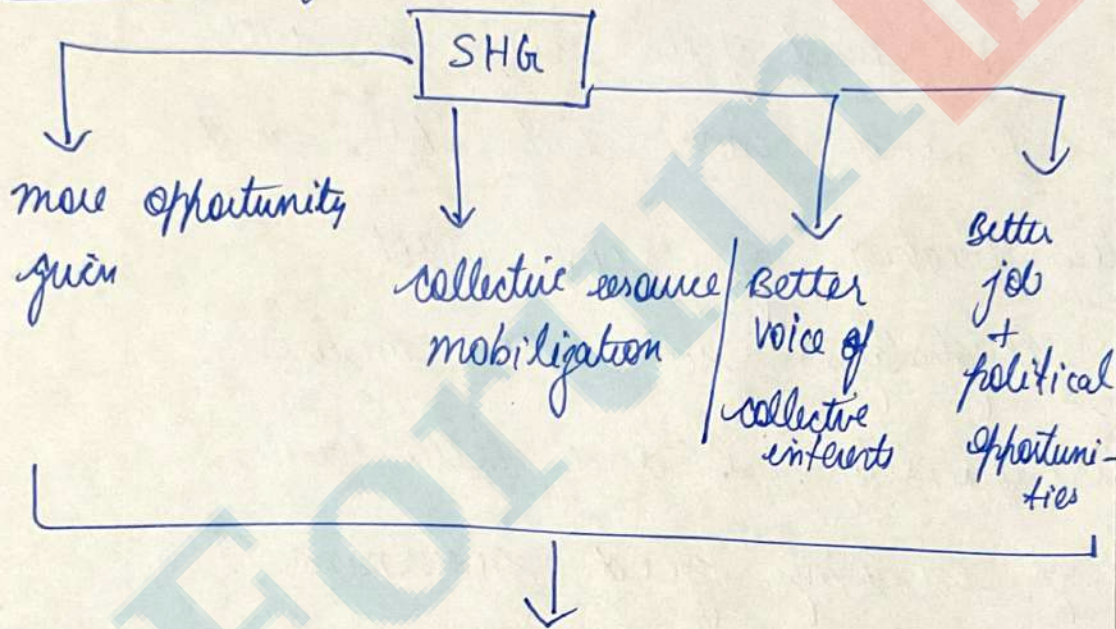
Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



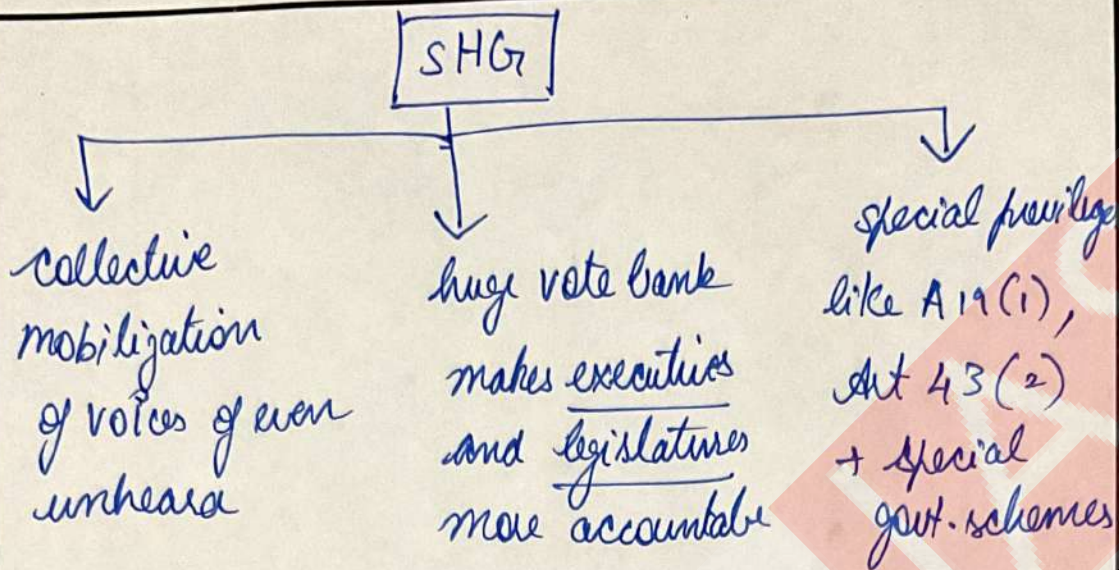
Q.14) "Self Help Groups (SHGs) have not only played an important role in empowerment of the poor and marginalized sections but also proved to be an effective instrument in changing the oppressive relationships in the society". How far do you agree? Justify your answer with suitable examples. (15 marks, 250 words)

SHGs are voluntary grassroot level organizations where collective interests are taken up for empowerment. eg: SEWA for women employment.



Empowerment of the poor and marginalized sections

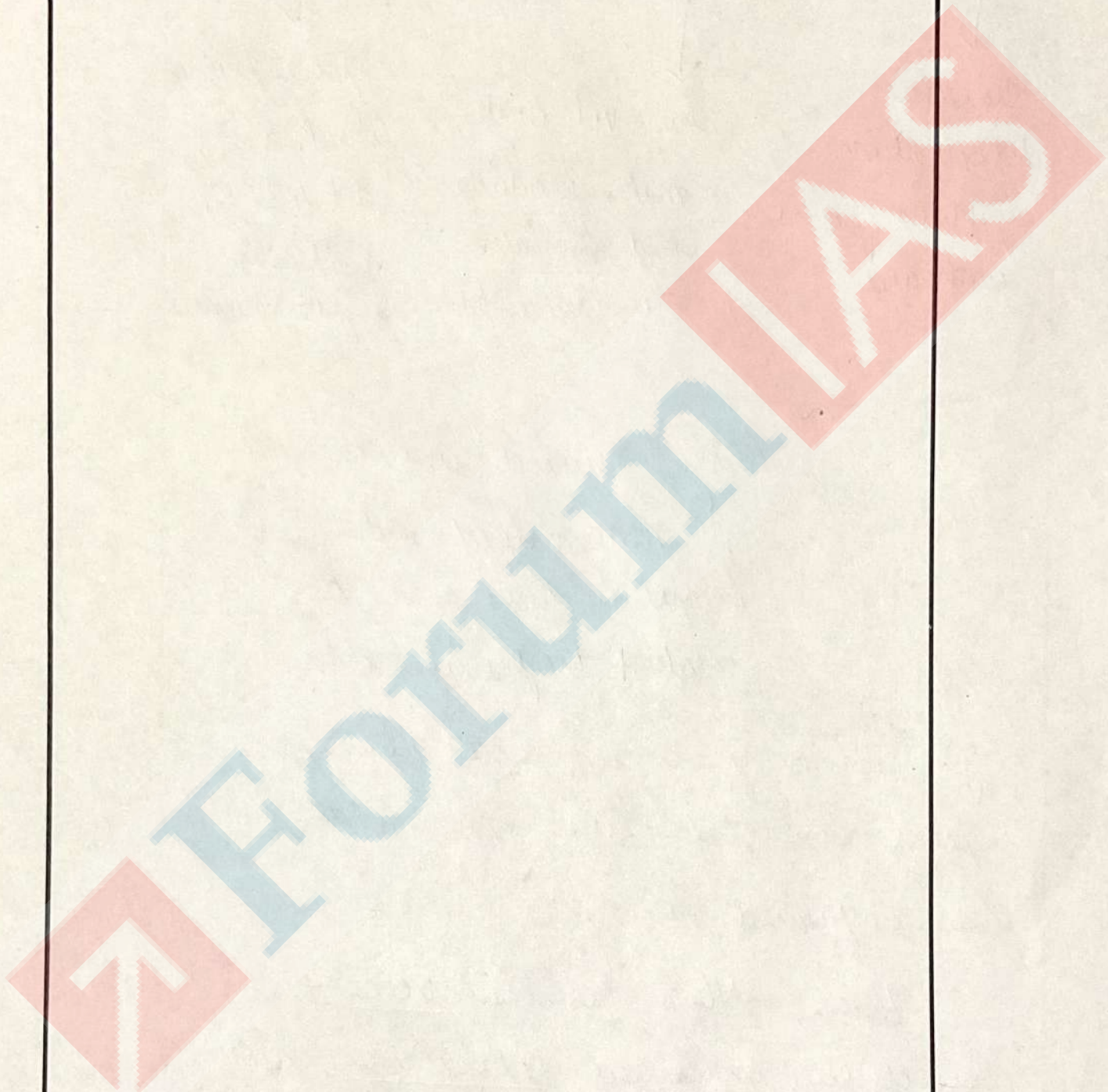
eg:- SEWA empowered women entrepreneurs
- Kudambashree in Kerala empowered vulnerable women.



Brings forward even the marginalized and empowers them against the state + the powerful class.

Eg: SHG's of women and other oppressed people in states like Tamil Nadu has empowered them.

Hence, SHG's collective voice + collectively enhanced opportunities, provides for a novel method in changing the oppressive relationships in the society



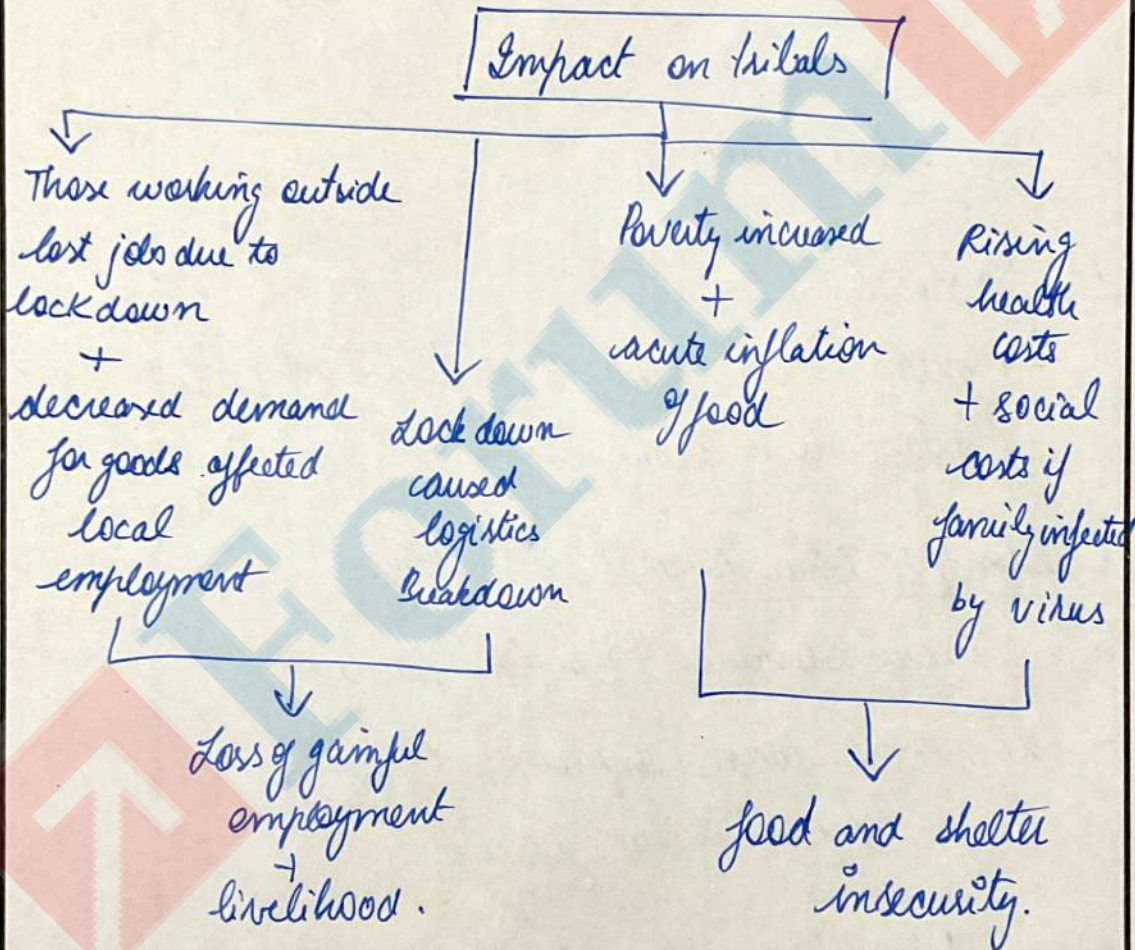
Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.15) The Covid-19 pandemic has had a drastic impact on tribal communities, causing losses of livelihoods, shelter and food insecurity. In this context, examine how legal protection and government initiatives have supported the tribal population during the times of distress. (15 marks, 250 words)

The Covid-19 pandemic had displaced millions of workers, caused large scale unemployment and un deaths of lakhs of people in India.



Role of legal protection

1. National food security Act, 2013
 - gave low cost rations
2. Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee scheme
 - provided alternate job opportunities

Role of govt. initiatives

1. PM Garib Kalyan Yojana
 - more rice/wheat entitlements
 - wage loss compensation
2. PM Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan
 - various stimulus + monetary packages
 - to boost local employment with special tribal focus.
3. Govt. set up various Covid-19 facilities, diagnostic centres, isolation centres + free vaccination → to tackle virus at earliest

Tribals being one of the most vulnerable, their direct help + identification of issues even by local administration played a key role.

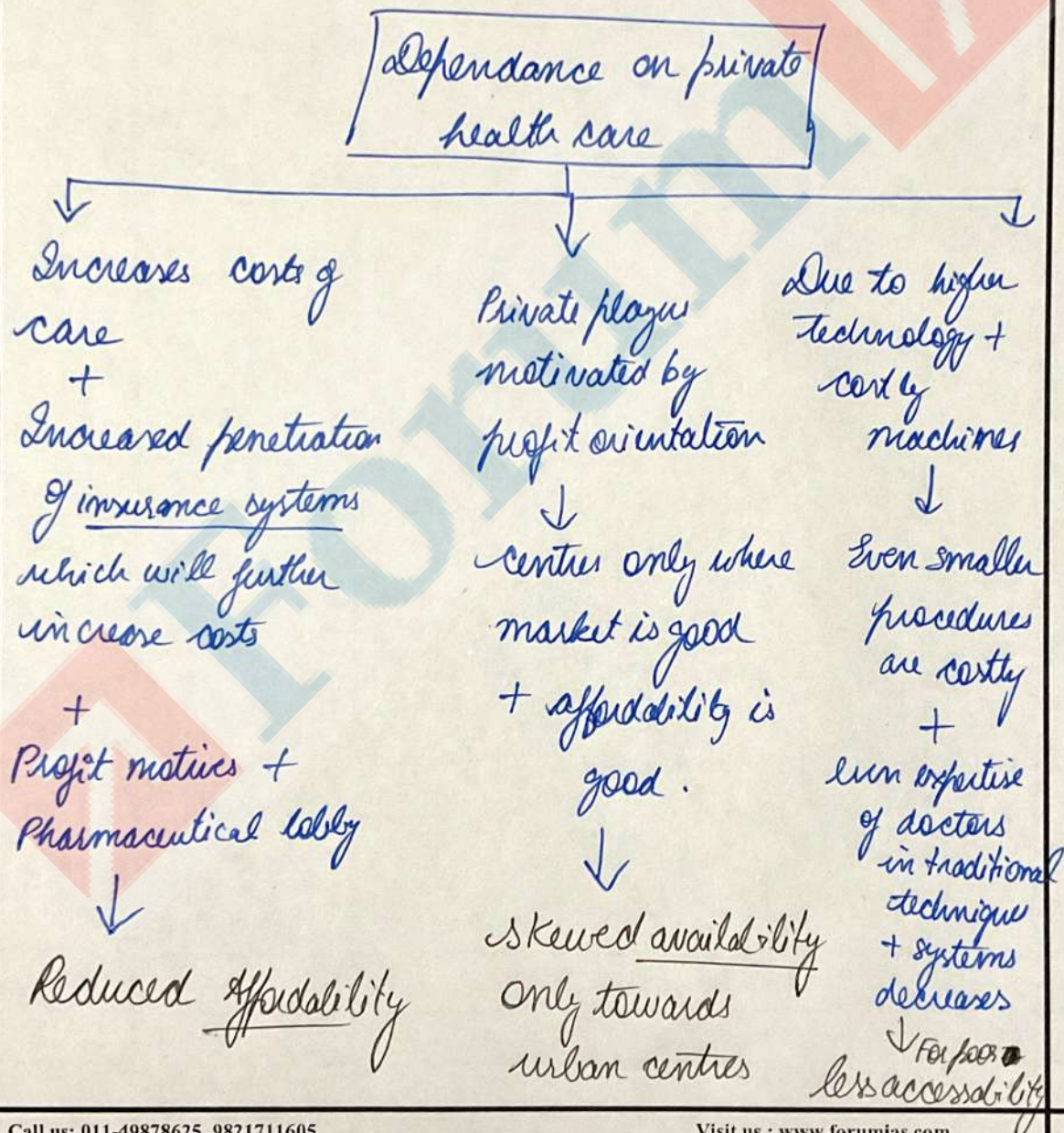
Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.16) A greater dependence on the private sector for health care, especially maternal and child health care creates the challenge of accessibility, affordability and availability in healthcare. Critically examine in the light of key findings of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5). (15 marks, 250 words)

The recently released NFHS-5 shows that the levels of malnutrition has increased especially in children.



All these are highlighted by NFHS-5 data which shows,

1. Rural-urban divide in healthcare
2. Increasing health costs
3. More people seeking private care
4. Increasing insurance penetration
- ⊕ 5. No major decline in malnutrition
6. Increasing disease burden
7. No major change in immunization rates and institutional deliveries from NFHS-4 data.

Way forward

1. There should be a mix of both

Private	+	Govt
↓		↓
focussing on cutting edge care		ensuring universal access
+		+
technologies		Affordable access.

Being a signatory of Alma Ata declaration, and moving towards Right to health, schemes like Ayushman Bharat, focus on AyUSH system + governance reforms in National Medical Commission Act 2019

preserves India's balancing act of encouraging govt. sector in health care also.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

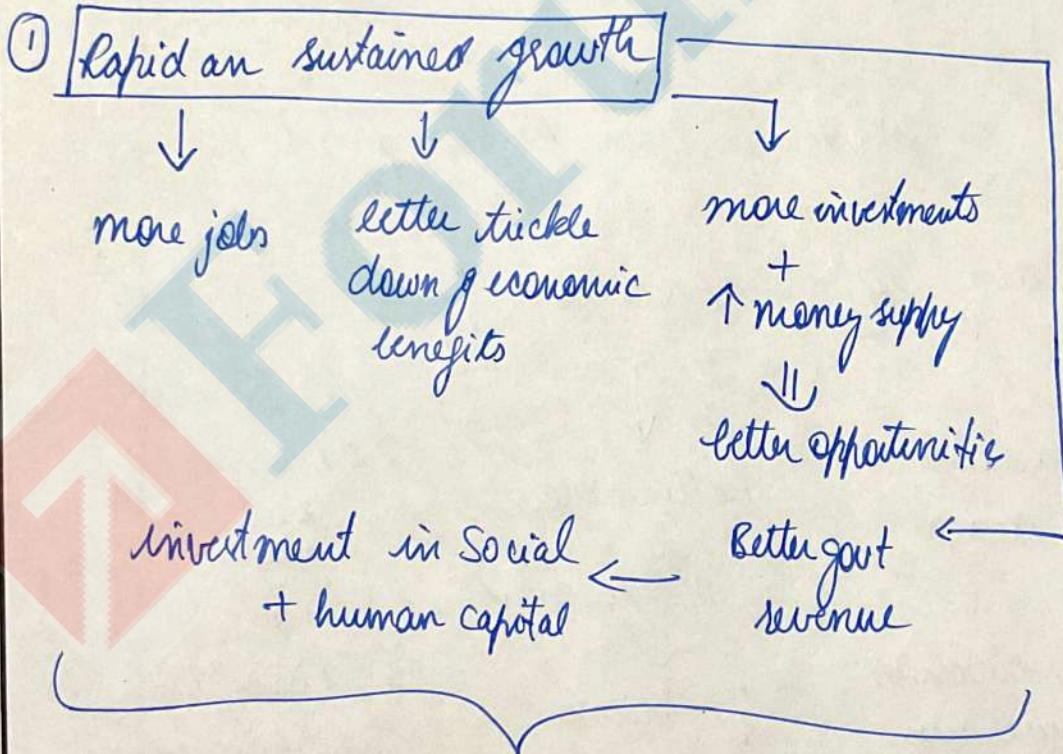


Q.17) A well-rounded and holistic anti-poverty strategy must include sustained rapid growth, creation of entitlements and building up of capabilities. Examine the statement and highlight the various government initiatives taken in this direction.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Poverty can be defined as a state where an individual does not have access to even the basic food, shelter, clothing and basic well being (health, education etc..)

Dimensions of anti poverty strategy should focus on:

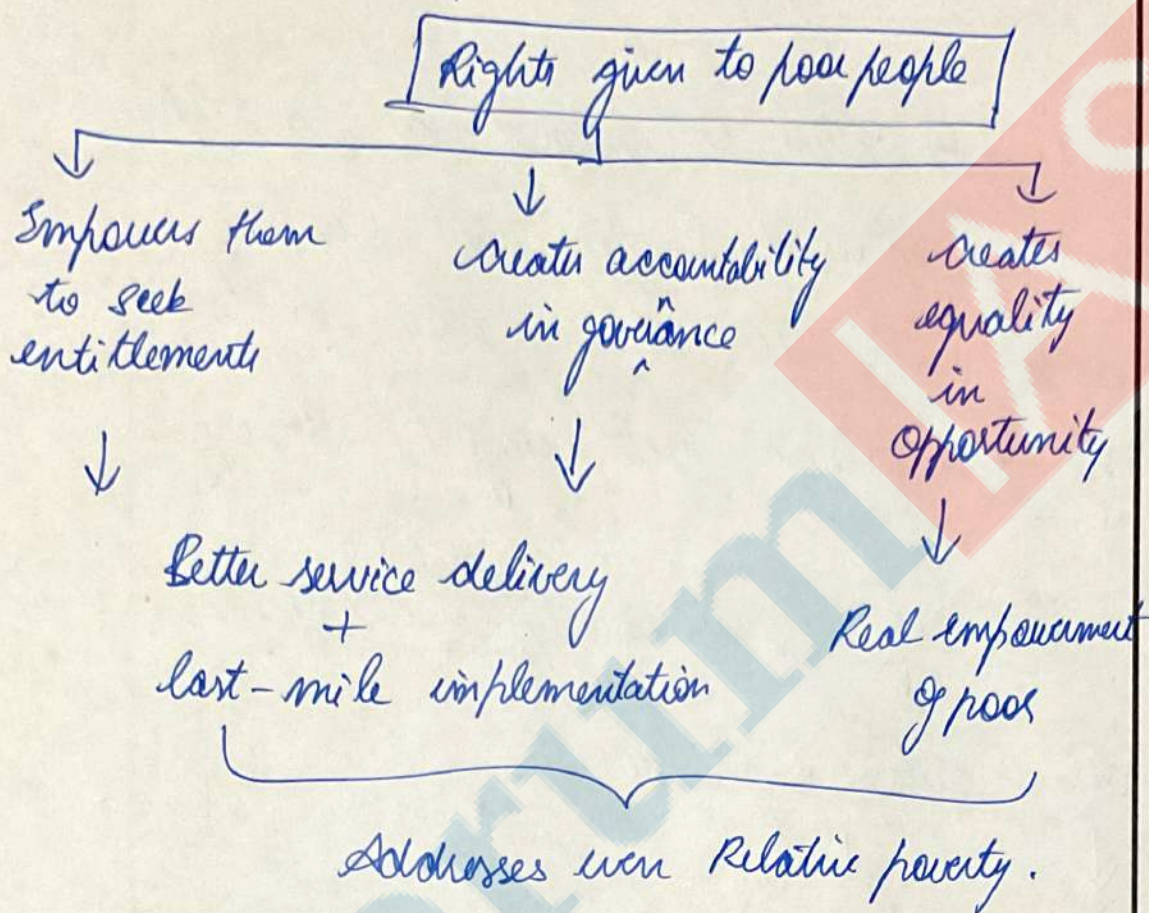


Constant anti-poverty strategy.

eg: India pulled out 270 Million out of poverty (2005-2015) during high growth phase

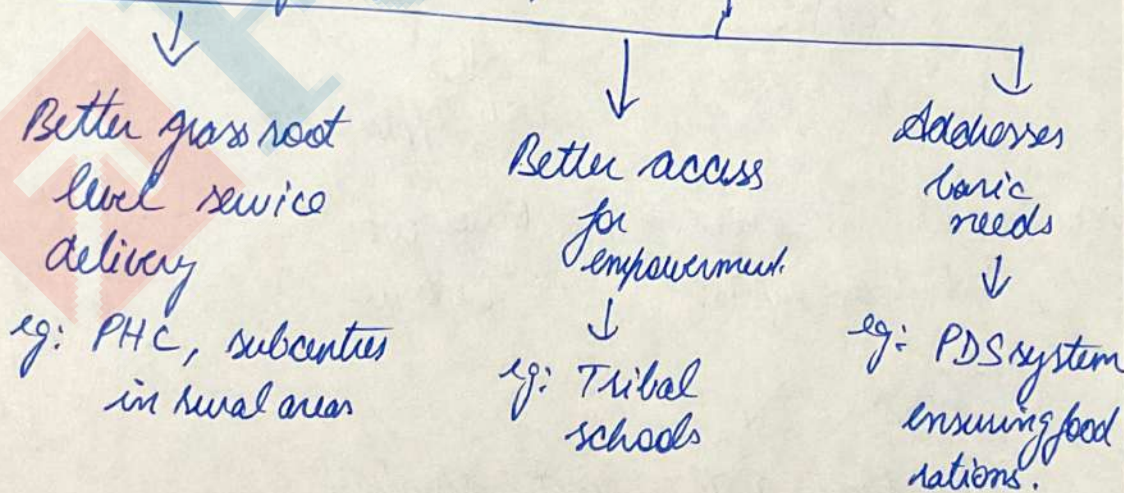
②

Creation of entitlements



③

Building up capacities



Govt. initiatives

1. for rapid / sustained growth

- ↳ Ease of doing business via governance and digital reforms
- ↳ Better monetary + fiscal policies
- ↳ more capital expenditure
- ↳ LPG reforms

2. Entitlements

- ↳ 1. Guaranteed minimum work (MGNREGA)
- ↳ 2. Right to cheap food grains (NFSA, 2013)
- ↳ 3. Right to education, 2009
- ↳ 4. Right to good health (free health services in all govt. institutions)

3. Building capacities

- ↳ 1. Healthcare
 - ↳ 2. Education
 - ↳ 3. Social empowerment → various community centres etc.
- Ayushman Bharat
PM Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana
govt schools at even remote areas

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.18) India's association with the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) has the potential to alter the geopolitics of Central Asia and South Asia. Comment.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is a security partnership of Asian countries which includes China, Russia, India, Pakistan and few central Asian countries.

India's association in SCO

Alters geopolitics of ^{South} ~~Central~~ Asia :-

1. India and Pakistan inspite of huge differences are on same grouping + even joint MILITARY EXERCISES.

→ can increase Ind-Pak cooperation

2. Growing Rus - China - Pak axis can be tackled and balanced by India in SCO.

3. The growing India - China adversities especially in South Asia like China's

String of pearls and India's necklace of diamonds → growing militarization in South Asia + cold war.

↳ SCO being a security bloc can reduce tensions.

4. A stronger SCO can reduce the influence of USA and Europe in the region

Attraction in geo-politics of Central Asia (CIS)

1. India as well as other countries have always tried to maintain close relations with central asian republics for energy security

↳ which resulted in a race among countries in the region

↳ with better ~~and~~ cooperation, peace and stability can be ensured

2. SCO can play a great role in Afgan's

stability in the region.

All the potential of SCO can get unlocked only when India, Pakistan and China cooperate leaving behind their nationalistic interests for sake of a common and peaceful regional growth.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



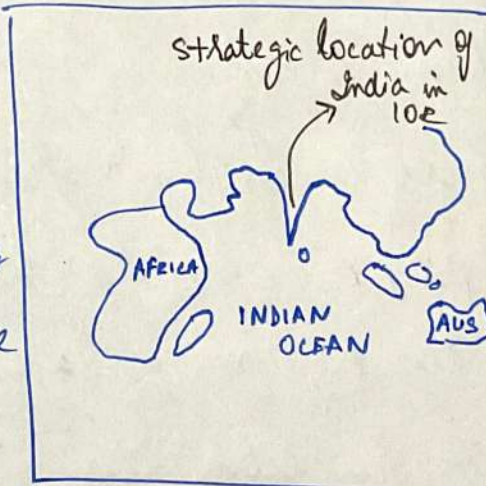
Q.19) "The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) presents a unique opportunity to develop a Blue Economy which is an important component of Atmanirbhar Bharat." Analyse the statement considering India's pivotal position within the IOR. (15 marks, 250 words)

The Indian ocean region (IOR) accounts to almost 90% of trade route for Indian cargo by volume and also contributes to transport of more than 85% of the world's crude oil. It is also rich in natural resources and has become a theatre for global geo-politics.

Opportunity to develop a blue Economy for India

Why?

1. India's strategic location + almost 7500km long coastline provides unique opportunity



2. India's close coordination with other countries in the region via
A. Indian Ocean Rim Association
B. Indian Ocean Commission.

C. SAARC

D. BIMSTEC etc.

E. India - ASEAN relations.

How? (an opportunity for blue economy)

1. It forms the location of India near the Major sea Routes of communication
2. It is the region rich in minerals like Manganese nodules, crude oil, shale gas etc. Even India has been given rights to exploit and invent techniques to utilize these nodules in Indian ocean.
3. Through India's policies like (SAGAR) Security And Growth for All in the Region, Sagarmala etc; India is in position to become Net Security provider in the region (NSR).
4. This region is also rich in fisheries

resources and India has been keen on promoting deep sea fishing.

A component of Atma Nirbhar

10R provides for

- energy security
- regional cooperation for regional growth
- a theatre for resources

+ recent times a theatre of India's geo-politics like Necklace of diamonds policy in response to China's string of pearls.

All these prove the importance of 10R, and India has to utilize the opportunity which 10R presents to become the world leader.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.20) Covid-19 vaccines are becoming an important form of diplomatic currency around the world. In this context, discuss how "vaccine diplomacy" could serve India's geopolitical interests. (15 marks, 250 words)

Recently, India has crossed 100 crore vaccine doses, and it is set to vaccinate all adult population within this year end. Vaccine diplomacy is the method of securing a nation's interest due to its position of advantage in procuring or producing vaccines.

How Vaccine diplomacy can serve India's interests:

1. India → a major global producer of vaccine
↳ exporter of vaccines to entire world
↳ has huge production capacity
↳ has even indigenous vaccines like
↳ Covaxin, ZyCoVid D etc.
↳ gave vaccines to many under VACCINE MAITRI (World's 1st DNA vaccine)

* So, India is in a position of leverage to attract other countries to favourable terms.

2. Missions like Vaccine Maitri has earned India's goodwill among the world countries
3. India has always been the voice and champion of developing nations and less developed nations and with huge advantage, India will become the global master in Vaccine diplomacy.

What can be done?

1. Protect and serve other countries + world trade by tackling the virus via vaccine.
2. Can earn goodwill + currency if sold to developed countries
→ can be encashed when India runs for elections like UNSC, WHO etc and other global organizations
3. No country would now like to antagonize India.

4. Provides an opportunity to be seen as a world leader.

By increasing capacities, clearances (like WHO approval for CoVaxin, ZyCoVIDD) and constant research for adapting to mutations in the virus, India can become the powerful leader dictating vaccine diplomacy of the world.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Mentor Feedback Questions

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Test Goal

- 1
- 2
- 3

Outcomes

- 1
- 2
- 3

Marking Scheme

Mark	Good	Average	Below average
10 Marker	3.75 – 5.0	3.0 – 3.5	< 3.0
15 Marker	5.75 – 7.0	4.0 – 5.5	< 4.0
✓✓	Key / Relevant Point		
✗	Vague / Irrelevant		

* Subject to change without prior notice.