

ForumIAS

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	ANKUR KUMAR		
Roll No.	1910106241	Date:	30/8/22

Time Allowed: One and Half Hours

Maximum Marks: 125

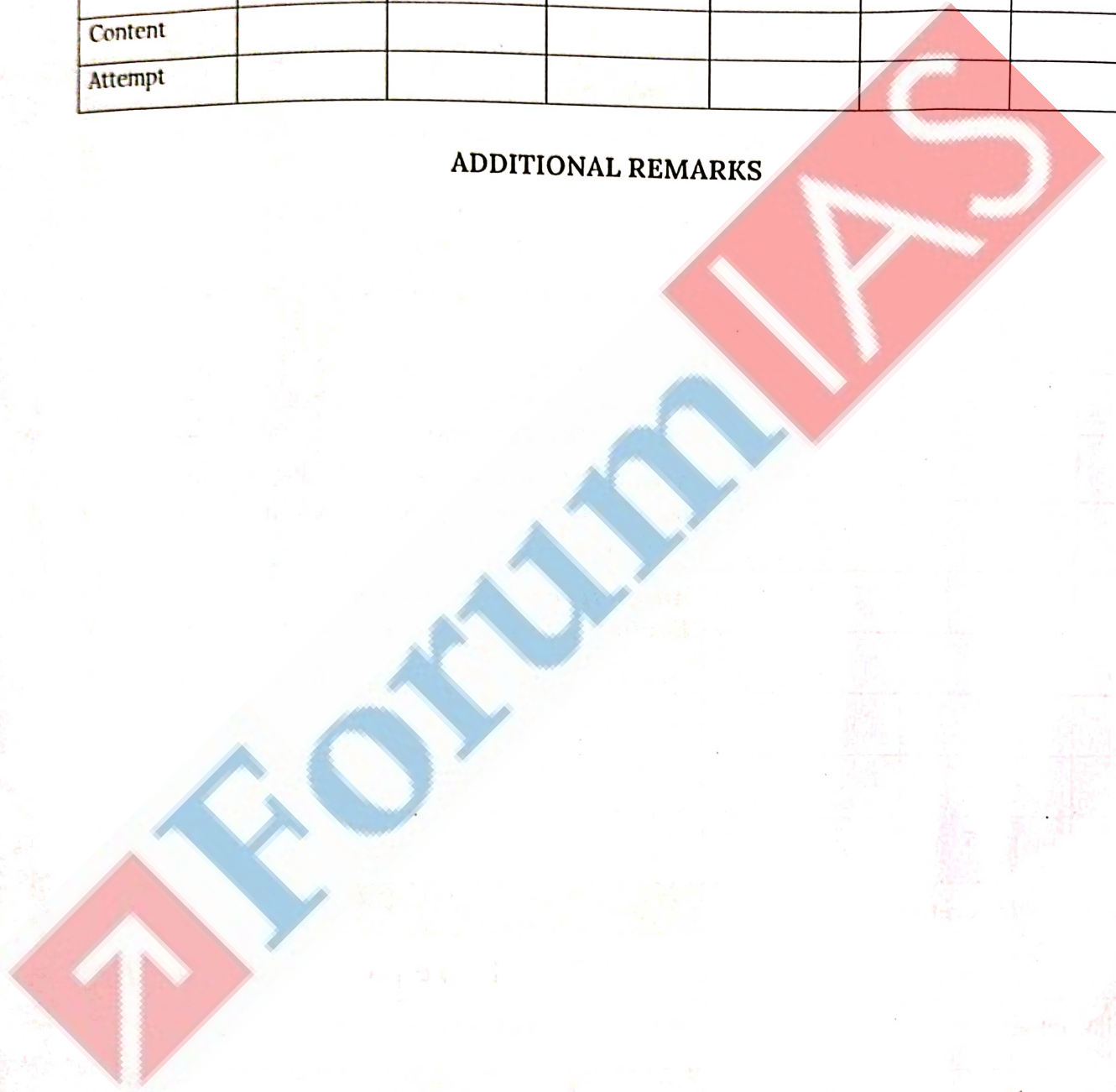
INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION	
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.	
1			2. There are TEN questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory.	
2			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.	
3			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.	
4			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.	
5			<i>Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.</i>	
6			-----	
7			-----	
8			-----	
9			-----	
10			-----	
Total:	125			
Evaluator's Discretion:			For Student Only	
			Start Time 1:30 pm	End Time 3:07 pm
Total Marks:			Mode Of Examination:	Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluator's Discretion: This is the marks awarded at the discretion of the evaluator based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy.			For Office Use Only	
			ECN CODE:	EG: Evaluation Date:

Note: You can discuss your evaluated copy with the Mentor. Raise a ticket from your portal to schedule a mentor call or visit the offline centre to meet mentor (all 7 days, Timings - 11 AM to 6 PM). Further if you are unsatisfied with the evaluation, you can seek re-evaluation of the copy.

145703_61215_1910106241 (2022-08-30 16:50:06)

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

ADDITIONAL REMARKS



Q.1) Path to a digital India should traverse through the villages but seems to have bypassed the ideal trajectory. Critically examine. (10 marks, 150 words)

डिजिटल इंडिया का रास्ता गांवों से होकर गुजरना चाहिए, लेकिन लगता है कि इस आदर्श पथ को दरकिनार कर दिया गया है। समालोचनात्मक रूप से परीक्षण करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Digital India initiative has the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society & knowledge economy. And the villages of India are of great relevance in this journey of digital democracy.

Relevance of Centrality of villages in Digital India

→ 64.6% of Indian population resides in rural areas - 2021 report of World Bank

→ Need of extra efforts to mainstream the rural population for development

- Villages have got ignored by Digital India -
- The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the fault lines in our digital democracy's pathway where the rural India suffered the most in absence of smooth e-governance facilities

→

Access to	India	
	Rural population	Urban population
> Computers	4%	23%
>> Internet	13%	37%

Source - NSO 2017-18

Bharat - India Divide

- Non-development of digital sector in agriculture.
- Non-integration into the digital economy
- Though there have been some positive effects
 - > 4 lakh CSCs functioning well in rural India
 - Initiatives like - "Smart Class" in Banks, Bhoos under the Aspirational Districts Program
 - Success of JAM trinity
 - Proliferation of LEEDs, WIFI-Choupals etc

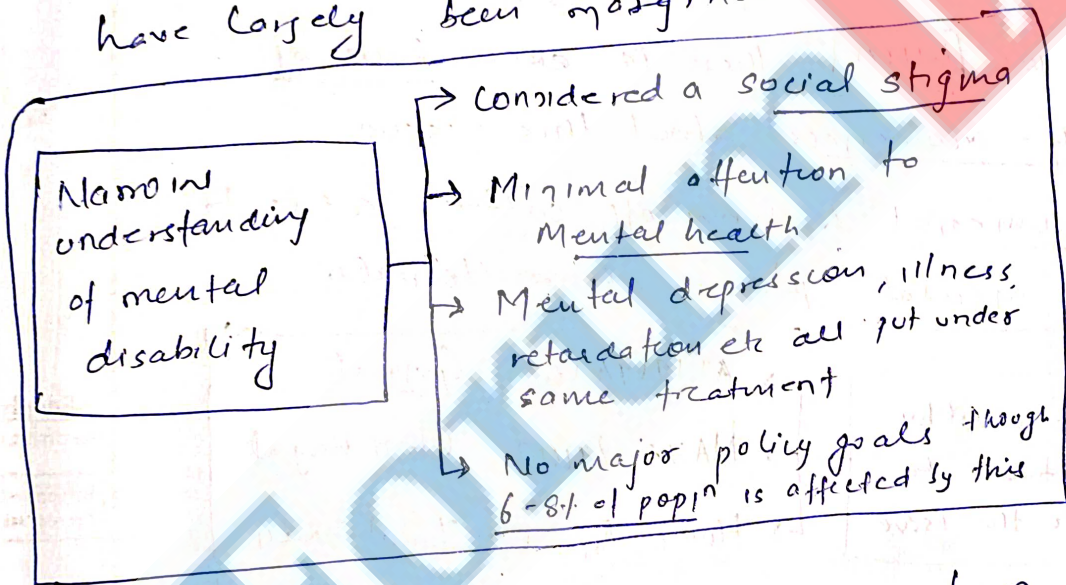
There is a dire need for the development debate to shift from smart cities to smart villages and more focus on schemes like PMGDISHA and

Bharat Net

Q.2) Narrow understanding of disability has marginalised people suffering from mental disorders. Elucidate. (10 marks, 150 words)

दिव्यांगता की संकीर्ण समझ ने मानसिक विकारों से पीड़ित लोगों को हाशिए पर डाल दिया है। स्पष्ट करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

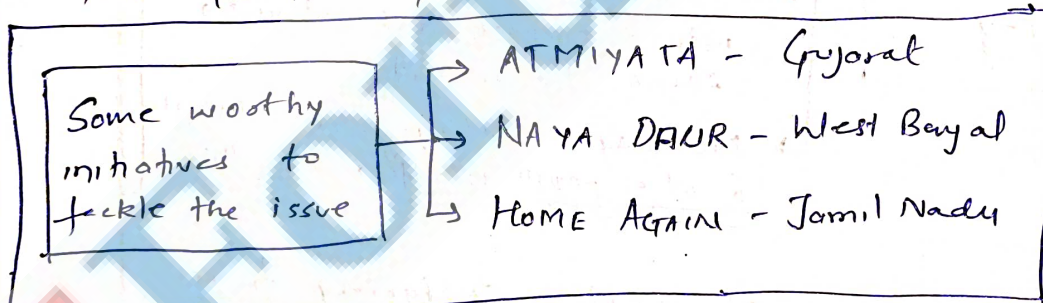
The Indian polity & society has often been accused of being not matured enough to understand the 'disability' issue in a broad & holistic manner. As a result people with mental disorders have largely been marginalised.



- Marginalisation of people suffering from mental disorders -
 - The fear of social stigma adds to the insecurity of isolation
 - There is a deficit of 70-80,000 psychiatrists in India as there is 0.3

psychiatrist per 1,00,000 of Indians.

- Expensive treatment reduces the affordability of care
- As per NCRB, there are rising cases of suicides in the working age group in India
- The emergence of nuclear families renders little space for the patients to find care & solace
- As per WHO, there is even lack of self-awareness about this issue.
- Consumerist & show-off culture adds to the mental pressure of millennials.

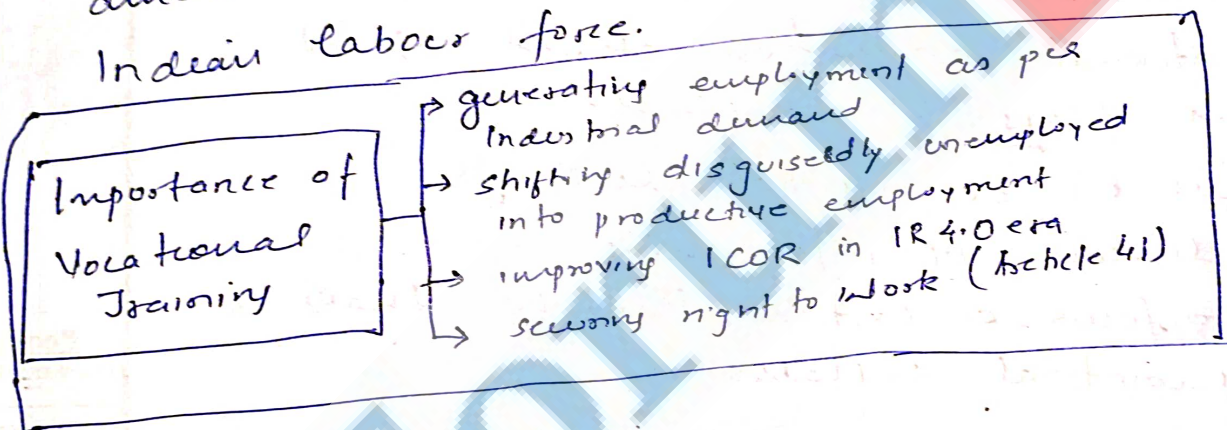


Better e-governance mechanisms & awareness campaigns about mental health is needed to direct our demographic dividend towards a prosperous and happy society. 136th rank on World Happiness Index needs improvement.

Q.3) Vocational training needs to be blended with mainstream education in order to bridge the wide skills gap. Discuss the status of vocational training in the country. How does National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, promote vocational education? (10 marks, 150 words)

व्यापक कौशल अंतर को पाटने के लिए व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण को मुख्यधारा की शिक्षा के साथ मिश्रित करने की आवश्यकता है। देश में व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण की स्थिति की विवेचना कीजिए। राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (एनईपी) 2020, व्यावसायिक शिक्षा को कैसे बढ़ावा देती है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Vocational training is a part of education that focuses on practical courses for gaining skills & experience for a particular profession. It is essential to ameliorate the wide skill gaps of Indian labour force.



• Status of VT in India -

→ 3-tier structure of VT in India

- Graduation & PG courses
- Diploma courses
- ITI certificates

→ With economic liberalisation, the importance of VT has been increasing in our labour market.

- Challenges with VT in India
 - less number of VT institutes
 - high drop out rate at secondary level
 - Lacks in new demands of the era
e.g. AI, Machine Learning etc
 - Poor Academic-Industrial linkage
 - Only around 5% of Indian ~~population~~ ^{youth} force is vocationally trained.

- Promotion of VT via NEP, do do -
 - Vocational education should start from class 6th onwards
 - Focus on experiential learnings
 - Inclusion of internships
 - More focus on critical thinking than theoretical syllabus.

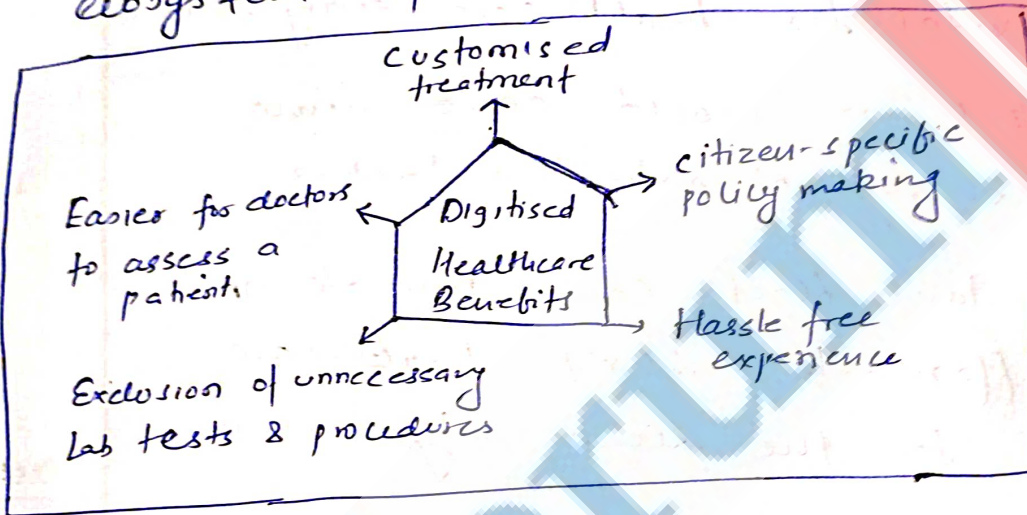
States like Bihar are focussing on the potential of VT in capitalising the economic prospects of its youth demography through a measured approach of ITIs & part-time courses in VT. It is an imperative for economic prosperity in India.

Feedback	
(For OFFICER)	
Structure/ Presentation	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Value Addition	
Total	

Q.4) Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) addresses the need for interoperability in health services through a unified health interface. Elaborate its significance in digitising the health care ecosystem. (10 marks, 150 words)

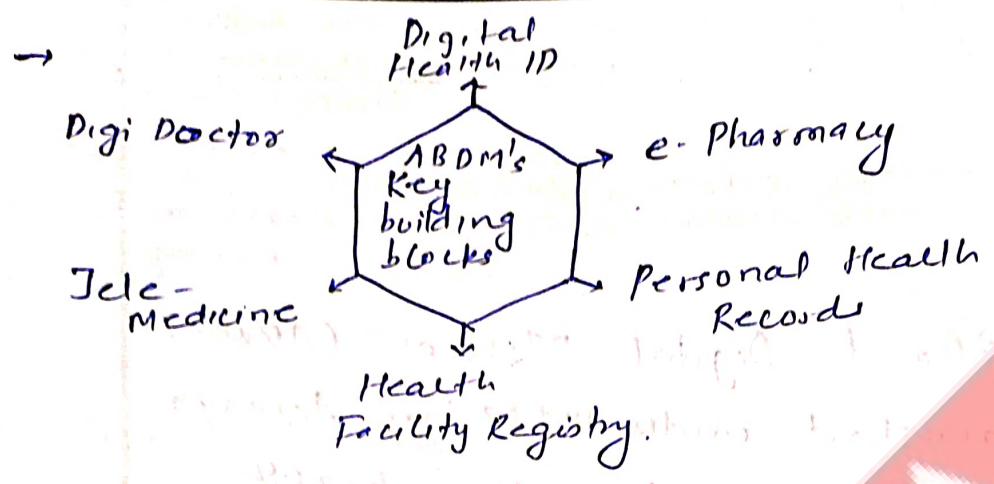
आयुष्मान भारत डिजिटल मिशन (ABDM) एक एकीकृत स्वास्थ्य इंटरफेस के माध्यम से स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में अंतर-संचालन की आवश्यकता को संबोधित करता है। स्वास्थ्य देखभाल पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को डिजिटलाइज करने में इसके महत्व को समझा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) has been launched under ABPM Jan Arogya Yojana to ~~provide~~ digitise the health ecosystem of India.



• Role of ABDM in digitisation of our health care ecosystem --

- provision of unique health IDs to every Indian citizen - a digital health ID.
- Digitised health records with identifiers for doctors would be available



- e-pharmacy & telemedicine are vital for healthcare ecosystem
- Digi Doctor would save time & energy of patients + doctors

These 6 building blocks can initiate an easy & affordable 24x7 healthcare ecosystem for the demography

→ It can prevent the cases of poor treatment by quacks by digitising the Doctors' data as well.

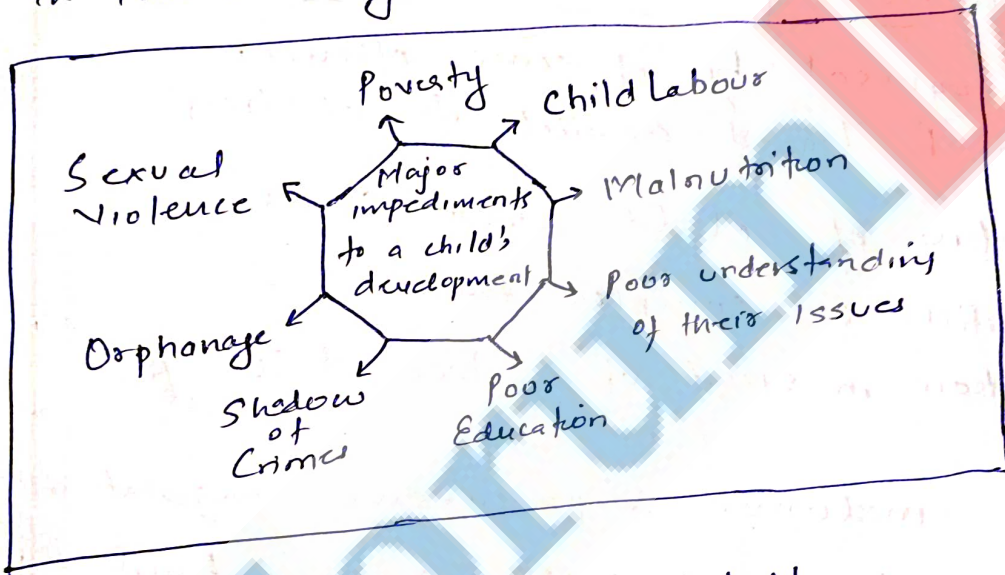
After the horrific experience of COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of a digitised healthcare ecosystem can't be understated.

Feedback (For OFFICERS)
Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total

Q.5) Objectives of a welfare government remains incomplete without a progressive ecosystem for the children's development. Discuss with special emphasis to recently passed Juvenile Justice Amendment Act, 2021. (10 marks, 150 words)

एक कल्याणकारी सरकार का उद्देश्य बच्चों के विकास के लिए एक प्रगतिशील पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के बिना अधूरा रहता है। हाल ही में पारित किशोर न्याय संशोधन अधिनियम, 2021 पर विशेष जोर देते हुए चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Article 39 (e) & (f) (a DPSP) ^{of our Constitution} ^{direct our} welfare State to provide a progressive ecosystem for children's development in the society.



Important provisions of JJ Act 2021

- The District Magistrate to issue adoption orders & not the Court
- Crimes for which maximum punishment is not prescribed to be treated as Serious offences
- Crimes with punishment of 2-7 years been reclassified as Non-cognisable

- the impact of the amendment in creating an enabling environment for children
 - easier adoption processes can benefit many orphan children
 - stricter action on crimes due to wider coverage of serious offences.
 - stronger oversight on Child Welfare Committees.
- -ve impact of the amendments
 - Non-cognisability of some offences would be biased against the children
 - Reporting of child abuse cases is still a complex task
 - Reduction in speed of justice delivery.

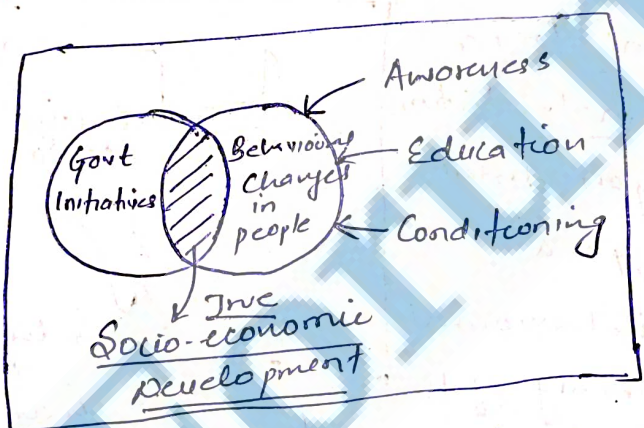
A more inclusive & progressive legislation can be drawn up with consultation with CSOs & UNs. Use of e-governance tools, transparency in justice delivery etc a need to be further strengthened.



Q.6) To ensure effective implementation of policies addressing socio-economic challenges, behavioural changes are as important as government intervention. Comment with relevant illustrations. (15 marks, 250 words)

सामाजिक-आर्थिक चुनौतियों का समाधान करने वाली नीतियों के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए, व्यवहार परिवर्तन उतना ही महत्वपूर्ण है जितना कि सरकारी हस्तक्षेप। प्रासंगिक दृष्टांतों के साथ टिप्पणी करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

In a welfare state, the govt has the responsibility of socio-economic development of the citizens via various policy initiatives. For this, the behavioural changes in the public plays an inevitable & complimentary role.

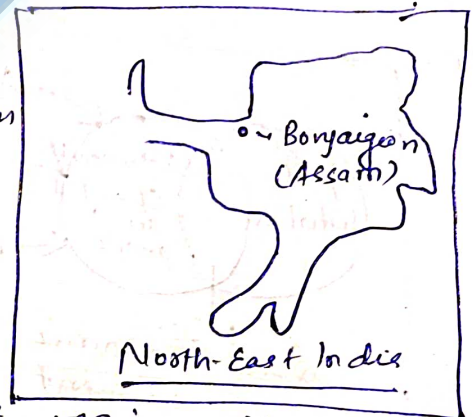


- Incidents of behavioural changes helping govt. intervention -
- The immediate success of Swachh Bharat Abhyaan has been greatly attributed to the change in

behavioural perception of people w.r.t.
open defecation, usage of toilet,
sanitation etc.

→ The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative of the govt. has resulted in the increased gross enrollment ratio of female students where the guardians are overcoming the son preference urge.

→ IAS Dr MS Lakshmi Priya has ~~been~~ ^{improved} the malnutrition challenge of Bongaigaon district via projects Saubhagya & Sanyojana via a behavioural change in the citizenry of the region. It has virtually reduced the cost of the projects as negligible.



→ Lakhs of Indians have given up LPG subsidy on an emotional appeal of our honourable PM.

- Failure of govt interventions due to stagnation in public behaviour
- poor tax compliance in India
- Numerous domestic violence & dowry related female deaths despite the Dowry Act - no change in patriarchal mindset of society
- 'Sarpanch Pati' concept defeats the intervention of female reservation in PRIs due to gender stereotyping.
- Low usage of RTI, Lokpal & other important Acts due to low awareness & carefree behaviour of citizens.

Govt interventions in addressing the socio-economic challenges would be more fruitful if behaviour of people is also changed positively. Usage of e-governance, more conditioning like 'Divyangans' for PwD, 'Granism' philosophy for ecosystem management etc would ensure a more participative democracy. & ensure better results in society.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

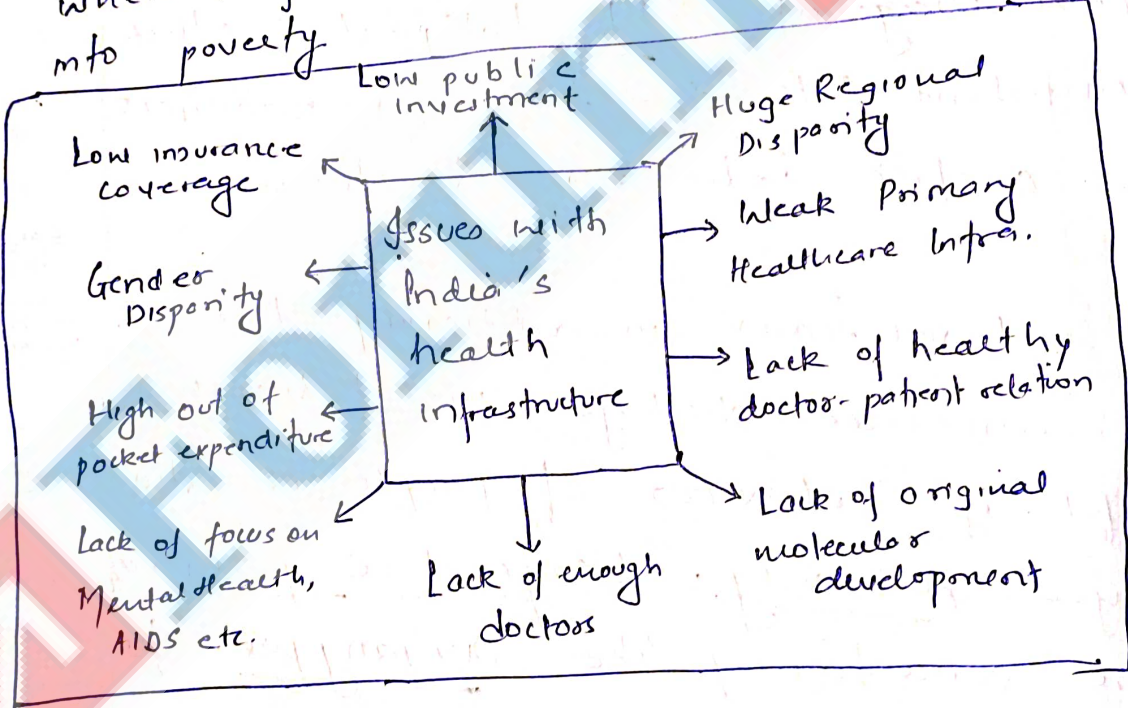
Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total

Q.7) Compromised health infrastructure has led to a situation where the marginalised are "one illness away" from falling into poverty. Highlight the issues with country's health infrastructure giving a suitable framework for reforms. (15 marks, 250 words)

समझौता किए गए स्वास्थ्यगत बुनियादी ढांचे ने ऐसी स्थिति पैदा कर दी है जहां हाशिए पर रहने वाले लोग गरीबी में दिगने से 'एक बीमारी की दूरी पर' खड़े हैं। सुधारों के लिए एक उपयुक्त ढांचा प्रदान करने वाले देश के स्वास्थ्यगत बुनियादी ढांचे के मुद्दों पर प्रकाश डालें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

"India's healthcare system represents islands of ~~achievement~~ California (achievements) in the sea of Sub-Saharan Africa (Challenges)" - Amartya Sen

The health infrastructure of India is biased & compromised against the ~~poor~~ & marginalised where they are "1 illness away" from falling into poverty

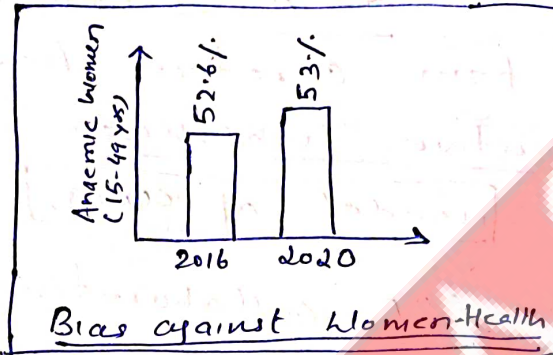


→ India spends only around 2% of its GDP on healthcare, Centre & States

Combined, as per the World Bank.

→ India has $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \text{ physician per } 1404 \text{ people (MoHFW)} \\ 1.7 \text{ nurses per } 1000 \text{ people} \end{array} \right.$

→ As per Global Nutrition Reports 2017 & 2021



→ Around 85% of APIs (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients) for drugs manufactured in India are imported

→ Only around 2% of the doctors serve in rural areas.

→ The out of pocket expenditure in India is around 60-70%, which is a huge burden for the marginalised population.

→ Weak system of primary healthcare system compromises the healthcare of the already marginalised.

→ As per NFHS-5, only around 40% of Indians have health insurance & in the marginalised section, it is extremely low

- A potential framework of reform consists of -
 - increase in public health spending to more than 2.5% of GDP.
 - Shift from curative healthcare to preventive healthcare based on the model of cuba.
 - Better PPP collaboration in the primary healthcare infrastructure.
 - Wider dispersion of Jan Aushadhi Kendras & Generic medicines for affordable healthcare
 - Enforcement of Clinical Establishment Act, 2010 by all states for an effective & cheaper healthcare
 - Strengthening of ASHAs & PRIs to bridge the deficit in rural areas.
 - Promotion of 'Self-care' culture as per WHO.

Besides these, a stronger e-governance model in telemedicine would make the healthcare infrastructure of India more robust & resilient.

Q.8) How far have Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA) and Panchayat (Extension of the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) been successful in attaining their desired objectives? What needs to be done to improve their implementation on ground?

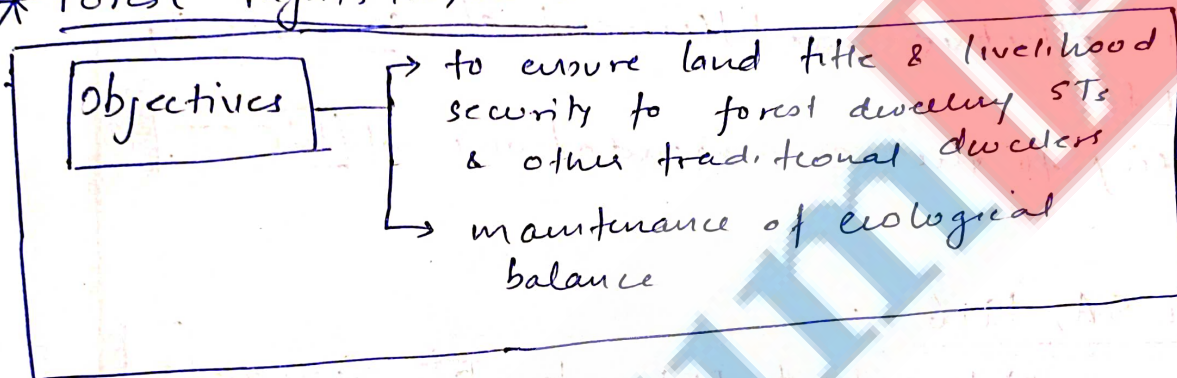
(15 marks, 250 words)

वन अधिकार अधिनियम, 2006 और पंचायत (अनुसूचित क्षेत्रों पर विस्तार) अधिनियम, 1996 अपने वांछित उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने में कहाँ तक सफल रहे हैं? जमीनी स्तर पर उनके कार्यान्वयन में सुधार के लिए क्या करने की आवश्यकता है?

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

FRA & PESA are two important pillars of the tribal policy of India.

* Forest Rights Act, 2006 -

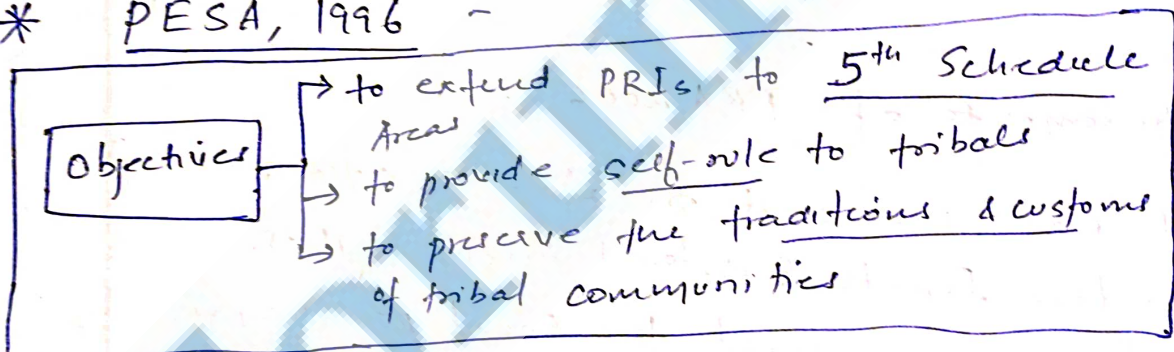


• Achievements of FRA, 2006 -

- It has reduced tribal alienation in the forests & restored their rights.
- It has empowered the local panchayats e.g. the Supreme Court verdict in the Niyamgiri Bauxite Mining case against Vedanta
- It has ensured better forest management in line with the principles of ecological management
- It has democratised forest governance

- Measures to address the challenges in PRA -
 - Dilution of powers of Gram Sabhas need to be reversed
 - Enhancing tribal awareness about their rights & procedures of this Act.
 - More rational evaluation of the issue of land encroachment
 - More effective entitlement of community rights
 - Heeding to the recommendations of NCST.

* PESA, 1996 -



• Achievements of PESA, 1996 -

- It has penetrated the essence of participative democracy in the Scheduled Areas of India
- It has empowered the local communities about its rights
e.g. the protest in Korba (Chhattisgarh)

- by the local community in coal mining.
- It is gradually integrating the tribals in the mainstream Indian democracy.
 - Measures to address the challenges in PESA
 - Enforcement & implementation of PESA by the 40% of the obligated states who haven't framed the rules yet.
 - The ownership of local resources & minor forest produce must de facto lie with the Gram Sabhas & not with local powerful people.
 - Devolution of financial resources to the local governments.

A strong vigilance by the Civil Society organisations & the Supreme Court could prove to be crucial in legitimising the true potential of these powerful Acts for tribal democracy in India.

Feedback

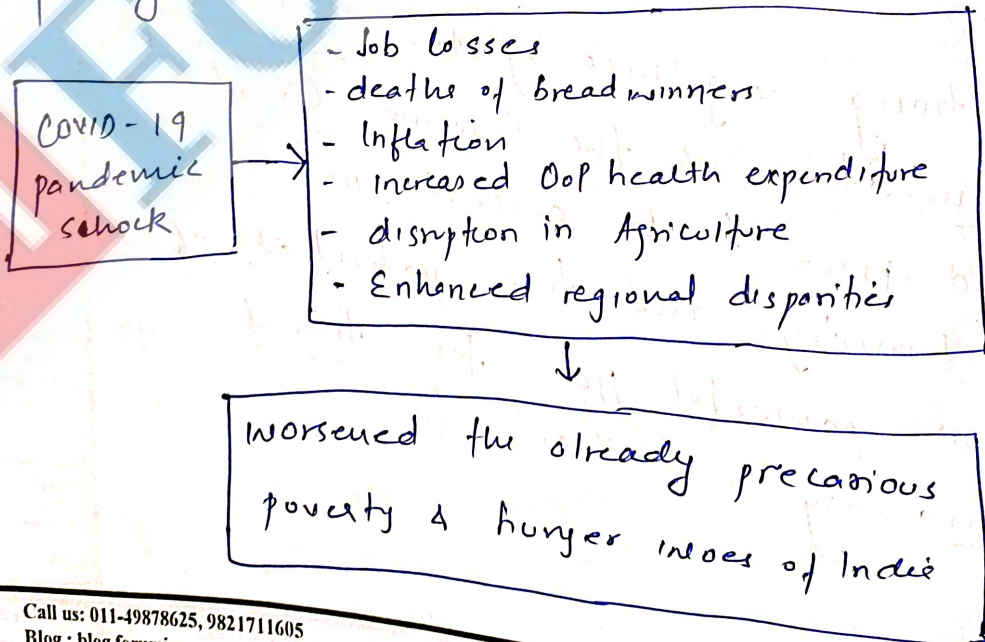
(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Value Addition	
Total	

Q.9) Enduring effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated existing issues of poverty and hunger. Explain.

COVID-19 महामारी के स्थायी प्रभावों ने गरीबी और भूख के मौजूदा मुद्दों को बढ़ा दिया है। व्याख्या करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The enduring effects of the COVID-19 pandemic engendered a 'Black Swan' event where the long & intermittent lockdowns & related upheavals in daily lives catapulted an economic & social stagnation across the globe. India witnessed the worsening of its existing poverty & hunger



• Exacerbation of poverty in India

- As per CMIE Survey, the annual year 2020-21 itself saw the loss of > 7 million jobs
- On an average, there was a loss of 12% in incomes of households in India.

→ As per the 'State of Working India Report'

- around 50% of formally salaried workers moved into informal work (less job security & social safety)

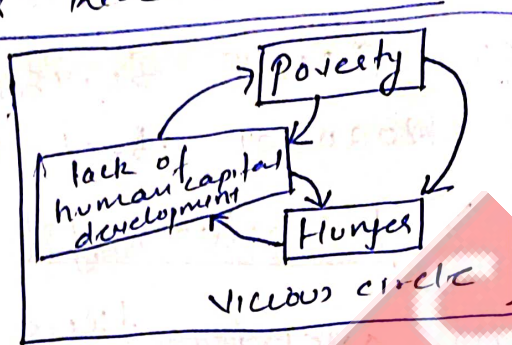
- additional 23 million people got pushed below the national minimum wage poverty line in 2020-21.

→ Contraction in GDP (7.3% ^{by} in 2020-21) & rise in inequality (as per Oxfam 2021 report) further entrenched the poverty.

Worsening of hunger woes in India

→ Increase in poverty levels

→ India ranked 101st in the Global Hunger Index 2021.



→ **NFHS-5** reported worsening of malnutrition problems esp. stunting & wasting in children

→ Increased household expense on cosmetic reduced the fiscal space for food.

→ Migrant Crisis - walking hundreds of miles without food.

Besides these, there was loss on the front of educational poverty, gender marginalisation (women lost more jobs, & LGBTQs' situation worsened), & an overall loss in terms of opportunity cost of lost productive hours. As per the **World Bank**, decades of efforts in alleviating poverty & hunger got pushed back.

Feed
(For OFFIC)
Structure Presentat
Question Interpret
Content
Value Addition
Total

Q.10) Despite the presence of a plethora of development schemes, India lags behind in creating a prosperous society. Is it a design issue or an implementation bottleneck? What suggestions would you make to improve the performance of developmental schemes? (15 marks, 250 words)

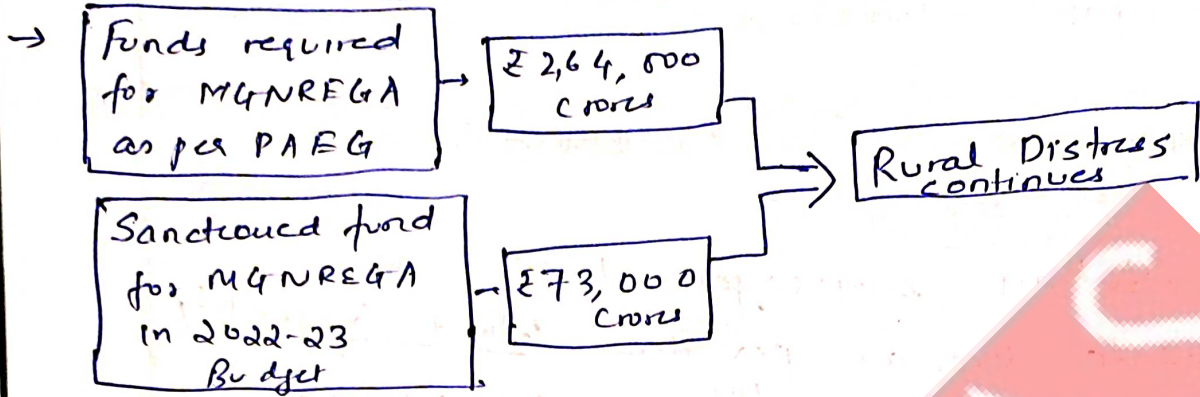
विकास योजनाओं की अधिकता के बावजूद भारत एक समृद्ध समाज के निर्माण में पिछड़ा हुआ है। क्या यह एक डिजाइन समस्या या कार्यान्वयन बाधा है? विकासात्मक योजनाओं के निष्पादन में सुधार के लिए आप क्या सुझाव देंगे?

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Our Constitution envisages India as a welfare state. But, as per the World Inequality Report, 2022, while ~~the~~ ^{the} richest 1% of Indian population acquire 18.2% of National Income, the bottom 50% are left with just 13.13%. This is surely not the emblem of a prosperous society despite numerous ongoing development schemes.

Development schemes	Societal problems
NFSA, Mid Day Meal, Janani Suraksha Yojana	101 st rank in Global Hunger Index, >50% women anaemic
Article 39 (b)	poor performance in World Inequality Index
MSP, e-NAM	- Agricultural distress
Reservation of women in PRTs	- 'Sarpanch Pati'
Downy Act	- Downy related deaths
PEMSR Act 2013	- Death of SCs due to Manual Scavenging

• Problems at the 'Design' stage -



- Loopholes in laws like NFSA, Mid Day Meal Scheme etc. for corruption & misuse.
- Exclusion of transgenders & PMJD in legal discourse lead to exclusionary laws.
- Lack of consensus building of Farm Laws.
- Lack of effective planning eg. ITC clause in GST Act 2017.

• Problems at the 'Implementation' Stage -

- Rampant corruption & scams
- Lack of monitoring mechanism
eg - development of 'Sarpanch Pati' evil in PRIs
- Poor training of officials.
eg - forest encroachment issue in FRA, 2006.
- MSP benefits barely reach to 10%.

of the farmers.

→ Lack of political will in implementation of laws e.g. Labour distress despite the labour laws.

→ Not able to manage regional imbalances e.g. e-NAM & digital divide.

• The performance of development schemes can improve by -

→ Better usage of e-governance & social audit mechanisms.

→ Adhering to the recommendations of NCST, NCSCs etc for more inclusive & sustainable schemes

→ Learning from the global successes (2nd ARC) e.g. preventive healthcare model of

Cuba
→ Better resource mobilisation e.g. wealth tax & inheritance tax on top 1% Indians to fund social security schemes

Unless these issues are resolved, even a \$ 5 trillion economy will have deep & entrenched socio-economic divides in the unequal society.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total

Mentor Feedback Questions

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Test Goal

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.