

Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटेMaximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

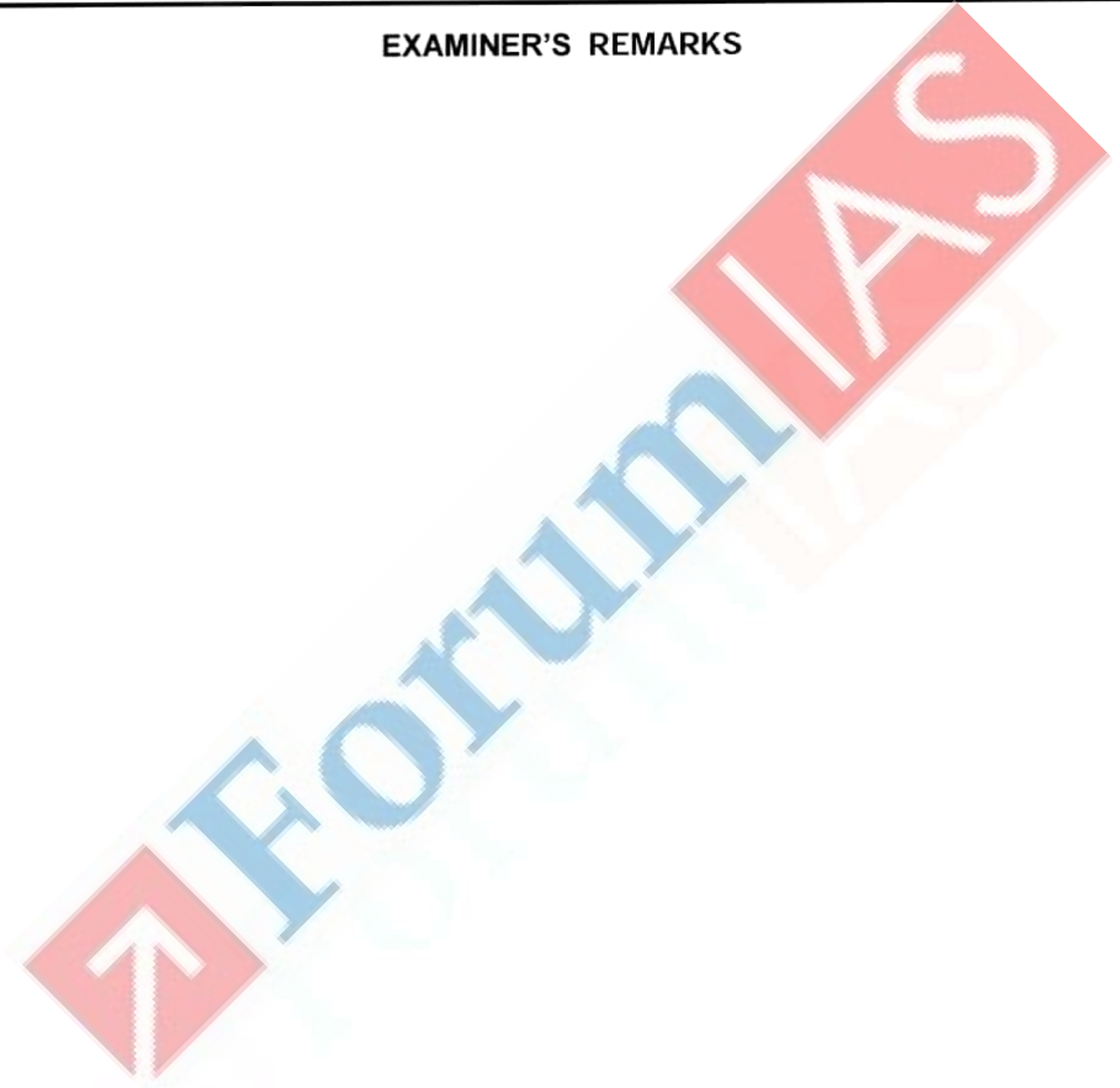
Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	PRAJNANANDAN GIRI		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910062322	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र		Date/दिनांक	11-08-2023

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INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका			INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश	
Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक	1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet. कृपया उत्तर-पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।	
1			2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory. उत्तर पुस्तिका में अंग्रेजी/हिंदी में बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं, सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।	
2			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए निर्धारित अंक उसके सामने अंकित किए गए हैं।	
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. उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।	
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. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाए। प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गये किसी भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ के भाग को स्पष्ट रूप से काट दें।	
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Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :			Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय : 2.00 PM	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय : 5.12 PM
Total Marks/कुल अंक :			Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline/ऑफलाइन <input type="checkbox"/>
*Examiner's Discretion is the marks awarded at the discretion of the examiner 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. मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक अंक, आपकी लिखावट, प्रस्तुति, आरेखों के उपयोग, फ्लोचार्ट, तथ्यों और आंकड़ों या समय रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु, जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आयी के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हीं तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।			For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु	
			ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :
			EG/ईजी : ① ② ③ ④ ⑤	

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.

EXAMINER'S REMARKS



(1) Investment in infrastructure is a precursor to social and economic transformation; however the focus on economic gains must not marginalise the concerns for safety. Comment.

As per IMEI report, investment in infrastructure gives 2.5 times increase in GDP by creating multiple economic and social transformation. Budget 2023 aims to invest 2.5% of GDP in infrastructure.

Investment in infrastructure — a precursor to social & economic transformation :-

1. Transportation - Improves connectivity by linking agriculture to market, raw materials to industries.
2. Energy - Ensures energy security with investment in renewables and domestic production capacity.
3. Irrigation - Promotes agricultural growth, as well as water supply to houses.
4. Social infra (2) Improves quality of healthcare e.g. AIIMS, super-speciality hospitals

(ii) Improves education through digital
infrastructure. [eg] National Educational
Alliance for Tech

Concerns for safety must not be marginalised

1. Quality of infrastructure need to be
aligned with safety issue
2. Road safety : Creation of fences around
expressways
3. Railways safety : Invest in anti-collision
technology
4. Biodiversity safety : Sustainable infrastructure
after proper EIA initiatives
5. Ecological safety : To ensure zero
or minimal side effects on environment
[eg] Roads from recycled plastic
Animal corridors etc

Overall, Circular Economy model
with Sustainable Infrastructure creation
is the need of the hour.

2. Do you think the low Female Labor Force Participation Rate presents a correct picture about the 'working women' in India's economy? Give reasons in support of your answer.

As per Periodic Labour Force Survey 2020-21, in India only 25% of women participate in labour force.

Presents a correct picture on working women

1. With rise in income of agricultural workers, male member prevent female to work for social status.
2. Higher education - enrollment of women increases → delays their labour force participation.
3. Lack of skills - prevents employability of women
4. Also social issues like patriarchy - gender stereotype prevents women participation.
5. Security issues associated with workplace → demotivates women workers.

Does not present a correct picture.

- 1.. Nearly 80% women are part of unorganized sector — Not reflected in FLPFR data.
2. Gig economy — women participation in economy increased due to flexibility & work-from home.
3. Disguised unemployment in agriculture — more as family labour.

Therefore, if overall situation is analysed, Female LFPR is far lower than male LFPR. Steps like creating enabling environment with skill development can help increase female LFPR.

This can increase GDP by 27%, as per IMF.

3. outcome budget convert outlays into outcomes. Examine various advantages and disadvantages of outcome budgeting and assess its status in the country.

Outcome budget refer to the government budgeting principle that mentions outcome to be achieved out of outlays in a financial year.

Advantage

1. Focuses on qualitative aspects of outcome

[e.g.] Quality of educational outcome

2. Result-oriented approach

[e.g.] PMGDISHA - computer supplied to villages — number of skilled individuals as outcome.

Disadvantage .

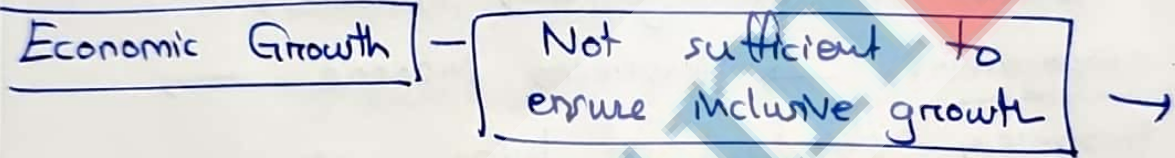
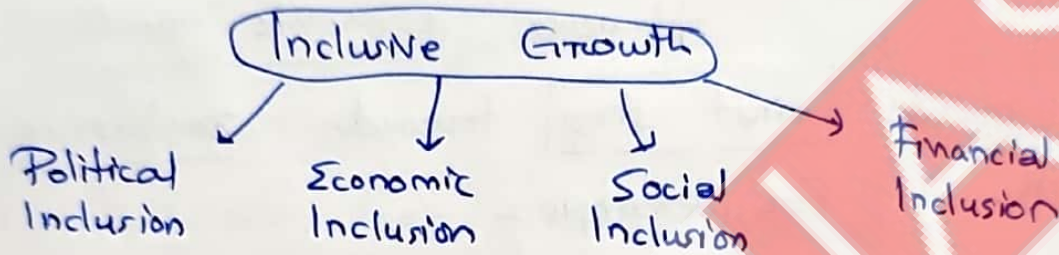
1. Subjective nature of outcome
2. Limited adoption in India
3. Limited accountability mechanism

Status -

India adopted outcome - output
budget after NITI Aayog's
suggestion.

4. What do you understand by inclusive growth? Is economic growth sufficient to ensure inclusive growth?

Inclusive growth is the pattern of economic growth where every aspects of society gets equal opportunity to participate in the growth process.



1. Economic growth may not address the inherent inequalities.
[eg] 10% Indians → 70% of wealth
2. Social inequalities ~~can~~ has limited impact from economic growth
[eg] Caste divide, Religious divide
3. Political decision making — not included in economic growth
[eg] Only 14% MPs in India; at PRLs

control of Sarpanch Pati over female representation.

4. Social Security - Economic Growth doesnot address the social security needs of old age, disabled, widow etc.

However, economic growth can provide first step towards inclusive growth, for example -

↳ Growth of economy → creates employment → improves income → Improves standard of living → Removal of poverty

However, it is the job of civil society and Government to ensure that the profits of economic growth are shared among all sections of society, to ensure inclusive growth,

↳ Through Progressive Taxation
↳ Social Justice measures.

5. Evaluate the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) in addressing the challenges of Public Private Partnership (PPP) in the country.

HAM Model of PPP

Addressing the challenges →

1. Equal participation of govt & private sector.
2. Viable Gap funding method
3. Facilitates long-term agreement
4. Prevents disputes between private & public sector
5. Greater success rate than BOT or EPC model.

Forum IAS

6. Analyse the role of fisheries in nutrition security, livelihood generation, and economic growth. What are the major challenges faced by the fisheries sector?

Fisheries sector of India contributes to 8% of global production and stands at 3rd position in terms of production volume.

Fisheries - Role in nutrition security -

1. Rich protein source - can address stunting, wasting & malnutrition.
2. Complements to Indian diet rich in carbohydrates
3. However, not adapted across India due to high vegetarian population.

Role in livelihood generation -

1. Contributes to livelihood of coastal communities - fisherman communities
2. Address poverty issue - also acts as shock absorber during drought-led crop loss particularly in east India.

Role in economic growth -

1. Potential export item due to high

demand in east and south-east Asia.

↳ India - Top 5 exporter of fisheries

2. Helps in foreign exchange reserves,
reduce current account deficit.

Challenges of fisheries sector :

1. Obsolete technology in boats & fishing.
2. High poverty among fishing communities -
limited surplus for investment.
3. Inland fisheries - not upto potential
4. Lack of value addition - like food
processing for higher price realisation
5. Lack of cold supply chain.

To address these
challenges, India started PM - Matsya
Sampada Yojana to provide subsidies,
tech-support, cold storage, etc to
achieve the target of 30 billion \$
of exports by 2030.

7. In what ways can precision agriculture become a panacea for multipronged challenges plaguing the agriculture sector? Discuss. Also, analyse various impediments in widespread adoption of precision farming in India.

Precision farming refers to the use of emerging technology for efficient utilisation of inputs for promoting sustainable Agriculture as well as maximum profit maximisation.

Precision Agriculture - Panacea for multi-pronged challenges of agri-sector :

1. Water crisis - Promotes efficient water use through drip irrigation, sprinkler etc
2. Soil pollution - Promotes integrated nutrient management after due soil testing of pH, content etc.
3. Agro-biodiversity - Promotes integrated pest management to preserve natural biodiversity.
4. Methods - Use technology like

AI, IoT, GIS - tagging etc to ensure
high agricultural intensity and improve
net sown area.

Impediments in widespread adoption

1. Limited resources with farmers
↳ Low agri surplus (102827 -
average farmer income)
2. High capital intensive nature
3. Lack of extension services
4. Lack of policy measures on precision
farming by govt.

Precision farming has
potential to transform agricultural
landscape of India. Adequate finance
support through contract farming,
PPP model can be implemented
to make it a success.

8. Agriculture subsidy regime in its present form fuels economic inefficiency and creates ecological imbalance. In this perspective, examine various issues related to farm subsidies. Also, recommend measures to rationalise the same.

Almost 2.5% of GDP is spent on subsidies, majority of which contributes to agriculture subsidy in terms of MSP, electricity, irrigation, fertilizer subsidy etc.

Agri Subsidy regime :-

Creates economic inefficiency :-

1. Creates patron-client syndrome & moral hazard
2. Increases fiscal deficit
3. Almost 1/5th of agri income comes from subsidies.
4. Creates trade disputes in WTO under Agreement on Agriculture.

Ecological Imbalance :-

5. Excessive use of irrigation —
mainly ground water in Punjab region —
Depletion of ground water level

6. Leads to water-logging + salinisation
7. Excessive fertilizer use → soil pollution & degradation.

Measures to rationalise] :

1. Avoiding populism tendencies
2. Reduce subsidies on electricity → Alternatives like solar power pumps need to be provided (PM-KUSUM)
3. Promotes organic farming & Zero-budget Natural farms → Reduce fertilizer subsidy
4. Diversify crops - use of crop rotation, mixed cropping etc

Overall, by promoting input conservation, the dependence on subsidies can be reduced.

9. Despite their blows in limiting access to larger market and poor price realization boon agriculture produce, APMCs have their utility. Analyse the statement and suggest reforms in agriculture marketing in the country.

APMCs are Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees formed by farmers' representative and act as single market for all agricultural products.

Flaws of APMCs -

1. Limited access to free market
2. Poor price realisation
3. Cartelisation
4. Politicisation of APMCs -
lower price to farmers
5. Anti-market ideologies among farm unions.

Utility of APMC -

1. Ensures fixed minimum price as per MSP
2. Prevents distress sale
3. Have storage facility for producers

4. Helps linkages with food processing industries and forward supply chain

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Reforms required :

1. Improve infrastructure of APMCs
2. Increase capacity with technology like quality checks, cold storages
3. Digitalise APMC network.
(e.g) e-NAM for one nation, one market
4. Geo-tagging of assets
5. Better monitoring of APMCs
6. Alternate markets other than APMCs after consultation & consensus with all stakeholders.

(10) Cropping pattern in the country does not concur with the agro-climatic reality, leading to unintended and undesirable consequences. Comment.

Cropping pattern of India refers to the spatial distribution of various crops grown around India.

Does not occur with agro-climatic reality

1. 15 agro-climatic regions — but most of them have monoculture
 [e.g.] Rice-wheat
2. Due to irrational MSP policy - higher MSP to water intensive crops.
3. Irrigation system as well as subsidies on water pumps, electricity —
 [e.g.] Semi-arid Punjab, Madhya Pradesh → Rice & Wheat
4. Lack of R & D into other crops
 ↳ No HYV seeds for millets, pulses etc.

5. Lack of awareness among farmers
↳ Limited role of extension services

Consequences :

1. Soil degradation & desertification
2. Water pollution & waterlogging
3. Unable to realise India's agricultural potential.
4. Import dependence on crops like pulses, oilseeds.
↳ Burden on Current Account
5. Dry-land region — Higher poverty among farmers.

(11) Labour and export intensive industries are key to problems of jobless growth. In this perspective, analyse the opportunities and challenges associated with the textile sector.

Textiles sector contributes to almost 20% of total workforce in India, which is 2nd highest after agriculture (46%),

Due to its labour & export intensive nature, apart it has huge potential for utilizing India's demographic dividend.

Opportunities associated with textile sector

1. Employment - Textile sector can absorb the excess workforce of agriculture - as disguised unemployment
2. Export - 95% of world's hand-woven textiles sourced from India. Need to increase machine-made textiles export.
3. Gender aspects - Textile sector can improve female labour force participation rate (now ~ 25% only)
e.g Bangladesh model
4. Backward linkage - Can promote cotton and jute sectors' growth

5. Comparative advantage of agro-climatic zones can be utilised.

6. Rural growth - Decentralised textile production centres can improve rural economy through skill development of youth.

Challenges associated with Textile sector →

1. International competition from Vietnam, Bangladesh etc.
2. Obsolete machineries in India [e.g]
Most of Jute factories established in British period are still continuing.
3. Limited skill development of textile workers
↳ Lower efficiency
4. Limited to traditional modes →
Lack of technical textile production
5. Lack of R & D efforts, market studies to cater to global demand.
6. Climate change - Impact on cotton production uncertainties

India's steps :-

1. PM-MITRA - Textile parks are to be established.
2. SAMARTH & SANKALP scheme for skill development of textile sectors
3. National Technical Textile Mission
4. APEDA - led export promotion support

Way forward

1. Focus on market studies of European & USA markets
2. Alternate export destinations like south-east Asia & Africa
3. Decentralised production policy

Textile sector is most important for rural economy as well as for ~~export~~ keeping the demographic dividend.

Therefore, this must be the focus of central & state govt to achieve a 5 trillion \$ economy target.

(12) What do you understand from Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation (LPG)?
Examine the effects of LPG reforms on different sectors of Indian economy.

India adopted LPG reforms in 1991 to liberalise, privatise and globalise the economy. It was basically a transition from closed economy model to open economy model.

LPG :-

① Liberalisation: It means to reduce government control over production.

e.g. By removing quotas of production, licensing system and over-regulation

② Privatisation: It refers to increase private sector participation in economy. Also to reduce government share in pro companies i.e. to transform role of government from doing business to facilitating business.

e.g. AIR India privatisation (2022-23)

③ Globalisation: To improve interconnectedness

and interdependence with the world through free-flow of trade, investments, labour etc.

e.g. Rise of MNCs

Effects of LPG reforms on different sectors

Agriculture sector :-

Positive

- (i) Promoted modernisation of agriculture
- (ii) Improved Indian exports like basmati rice, horticulture product

Negative

- (i) Improv. Increased inequalities between rural-urban economy.
- (ii) Led to agrarian crisis due to rise in cost of inputs & cost of living

Manufacturing sector :-

Positive

- (i) Improved technology.
- (ii) Brings FDI (e.g) Samsung Mobile Plant
- (iii) Promoted competition leading to innovation
- (iv) Privatisation of loss-making PSUs

Negative

- (i) Indian companies failed to compete → (e.g) dumping of electronics from China
- (ii) Inequal spread of development

Services sector

Positives

- (i) Made India leading exporter of services
- (ii) Rise of FDI in Indian companies
- (iii) Globally competitive
[e.g] Infosys, Wipro
- (iv) Improved employment status of Indian youth
- (v) Transformed governance sector through ICT tools

Negatives

- (i) Later on, led to duopoly like situation
[e.g] In telecommunication
- (ii) Creation of few growth poles like IT-hubs
- (iii) Rural-Urban migration increased
- (iv) Rich-poor gap increased, [e.g] 10% Indians → 70% wealth

However, overall LPG reforms had a transforming role on India. But need of the hour is to initiate LPG reform 2.0 to address the major problems.

(13) In the financial year 2021-22, Indian merchandise exports have crossed the 400 billion USD mark. Identify the reasons for this spectacular performance of Indian exports and suggest reforms to further boost the exports.

Indian merchandise exports is rising towards the target of 3 trillion USD by 2030. The breaching of 400 billion USD mark by 2022 was made possible due to various steps by government as well as global situations.

Reasons for this spectacular performance -

1. Domestic production : Improvement in production due to steps like Make in India, Assemble in India & PLI schemes
2. Ease of doing business - Various procedural reforms like paperwork, red-tapism were reduced.
3. Export promotion - It was ensured through zero-rated export through RoDTEP like schemes.
4. Tax reforms - Reducing corporation tax to 15-22%, GST reforms

5. Logistic reforms - India's rank improved to 38th in Logistic Performance Index.

- Creation of multimodal logistic parks
- Dedicated freight Corridor
- Waterways & Sagarmala ports

eg Turn-around-time reduced to 0.9 days in Indian ports.

6. Institutional reforms - Institutions like

- (i) APEDA for agricultural exports,
- (ii) MPEDA for marine products export,
- (iii) faster custom clearance through ~~ports~~ single-window portals etc.

Further reforms to boost exports -

1. Diversification

- of destinations - Explore markets of Latin America & Africa
- of product basket - Adding millet, processed foods, etc

2. Trade deals - By free trade agreements with countries and regional grouping like EU (BTIA), CARICOM, MERCOSUR, Eastern European Union etc.
3. Value Addition - Through GI-tags, IPRs, food processing etc.
4. Emerging sectors - Attracting investment in semi-conductor supply chain, Electric Vehicles, AI-based services etc.
5. Reforms - Further reforms in criminal justice system for contract enforcement, infrastructure reform, like Krishi UDAN, KISAN Rail etc.

Exports-oriented strategy can help address the multiple problems of unemployment, GDP growth, inflation, foreign reserves - together. Therefore, India must adopt such a strategy to achieve goals of 'AMRIT KAL'.

- (14.) Examine the advantages of adopting new computation methodology for calculation of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2015. Also, discuss the limitations of using GDP as a measure of development of a country.

~~India adopted a new
computation methodology for calculation~~

GDP refers to the total amount of goods and services produced within the boundary of a country, in a particular financial year. India adopted a new methodology of calculation of GDP in 2015.

Advantages of new methodology -

1. Counts Gross Value added in the supply chain → focus on value addition
2. Change in base-year → Helped in calculation of more accurate GDP.
3. Reduced error between different methods of GDP calculation.

e.g. Production method and Income method

Limitations of using GDP as a measure of development of a country :

1. GDP does not address inequalities presence within the economy.
2. The control over production may be concentrated in capitalist class → Still GDP remains higher.
3. It does not recognise the unpaid care work . [eg] Domestic household work by women
4. Does not address human development aspects like health index , quality of education , quality of workforce etc.
5. GDP at nominal rate includes inflation → Does not show the real gross-root situation .
6. Base-year effect in GDP growth [eg] post-COVID growth is away from real growth .

⑦ Elements of GDP - Consumption +
Investment + Government Expenditure +
Net Exports

However, the leakages and corruption
aspect of Govt expenditure is ignored
in GDP.

Alternative measure of development →

1. Human development Index — counts
per-capita income, health & education
2. Multi-dimensional Poverty Index
3. Global Happiness Index
4. Physical Quality of Life Index

Though GDP has its limitations,
it indicates the economic might of
a country. And the growth rate
acts as indicator of for foreign
investors to invest in a country.

(15) In an era of interconnected challenges, the emerging global polycrisis poses significant implications for India's macroeconomic stability. Examine and suggest measures to make the Indian economy more resilient to global shocks and challenges.

The emerging global polycrisis due to interconnected challenges like Ukraine war, post-COVID slowdown and inflation, US Fed tapering and climate crisis have led to implications for Indian economy.

Global polycrisis → Implications for macro-economic stability for India

1. Inflation - Due to constraints on global energy supply, rise in oil prices led to high inflation over 6% in India.
2. Foreign exchange reserves - During COVID-19 crisis, India had depletion of foreign reserves to pay import bills, to ensure exchange rate stability etc.
3. Investments - USA Fed Tapering led to rise of interest rate leading to withdrawal of FPIs.

4. Debt - Increase in public debt to GDP ratio to 85% in 2022-23.

↳ Ideal target - 60% debt to GDP ratio

5. Current Account Deficit - Global polycrisis led to countries adopting protectionism - reduced export demand → Higher CAD (3% of GDP)

6. Fiscal deficit - Global polycrisis led issues forced Govt to increase govt spending on welfare measures.

(eg) Atmanirbhar Bharat package of 20 lakh crore

↓
Fiscal deficit went upto 9% of GDP

Measures to make Indian economy more resilient to global shocks and challenges →

1. Promoting a self-reliant India concept

2. Reducing energy import dependency (85% imports) by adopting alternative

like Electric Vehicles , Solar & wind energy .

3. Diversification of national economy —
Increase manufacturing base to ~~reach~~
through semi-conductorz , textiles , pharma etc

4. Address gaps and challenges in supply
chain to counter inflation .

5. Adopt a counter-cyclical fiscal policy
with limitation of fiscal deficit ~~as~~
~~per~~ and debt-to-GDP ratio as per
FRBM Act

6. Structural reforms like farm laws -
contract farming , tax reforms etc
in line with self-reliance .

A multi-stakeholder and
multi-pronged approach is required to
make Indian economy resilient to
global shocks and challenges .

(16) What are the reasons for increasing emphasis on the horticulture sector in recent years? Evaluate government measures for the development of the horticulture sector.

Horticulture sector contributes to almost 30% of agricultural GDP at 37% of agricultural exports.

Reasons for increasing emphasis on Horticulture sector in recent years →

1. Diversification of cropping pattern to reduce rice-wheat dominance
2. Additional income for farmers
3. Reduction of Risk due to climate or pest-led crop failure.
4. To cater to local & global demand of fruits & vegetables → Export potential
5. Nutritional security — To address malnutrition and hidden hunger.
6. To utilize agro-climate potential of India (15 different zones → can support diverse products)

Evaluation of Govt measures

Positive aspects -

1. Dedicated mission to promote horticulture
eg) National Horticulture Mission
2. Financial support for farmers through interest subvention & subsidies
3. Ensuring easy availability of seeds.
4. Focusing on high-value medicinal plants for export potential and AYUSH mission.
5. Improvement in storage - as perishable nature of products
eg) Operation Greens - cold storage for 22 perishable items
6. Extension support through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)
7. Creation of farmer producer companies based on horticulture products
eg) Turmeric-based FPC (Kandhamal, Odisha)

8. Marketing support through GI-tags
[e.g.] Khola Chilly, Muzaffarpur Litchi etc.

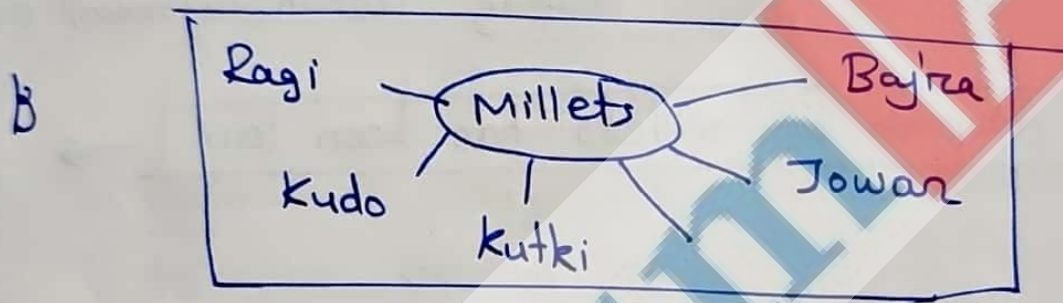
Limitations :-

1. Limited growth of cold storage network
[e.g.] Recent Tomato price rise due to lack of storage capacity.
2. Unscientific pricing policy
[e.g.] MSP higher on food crops
3. Limited awareness among farmers -
4. Asymmetric information sharing -
Unable to explore market -
5. Dominance of large farmers →
Unable to realise right price

Horticulture sector can address multi-dimensional challenge of rural economy
Therefore more focus is needed to address the gaps in implementation to achieve doubling of farmers' income target as per Dalwai committee.

(17) Despite the potential to check the triple whammy of nutritional deficiency, environmental degradation, and receding farm incomes, the adoption of Millets has been abysmally low. Analyse.

Millets are the coarse food grains that has huge potential to address various aspects like nutrition, environment, farmers' income. Budget 2023 provides for boost to Millets as 'Shree' Anna.



Potential of Millets -

① Nutrition → Rich in protein, iron, manganese, zinc ⇒ Can address child stunting, wasting and malnutrition
 → Low Glycemic Index → Can be helpful for Diabetic patients and to prevent lifestyle diseases

② Environment
 → Requires less water for growth.

- Promotes water conservation .
- Preserves soil moisture , soil nutrients
and maintain pH value ⇒ soil conservation

③ Farm incomes :

- Reduces input cost like fertilizer ,
irrigation , electricity etc
- High demand with rising awareness
among urban communities.

However, Adoption of millets has been low →

Reasons :

1. Not a part of regular diet - coarse
nature → difference in taste .
2. Limited awareness among most people
3. Absence of value-addition network
of millets like millet-based
cookies , bread , biscuits etc.
4. Mostly tribal farmers - not aware
about marketing and linkages .
5. Limited private sector interest .

Way forward -

1. States-led initiatives like Odisha Millets Mission has been successful.
 - ↳ compulsory Millets cafes in district headquarters,
 - ↳ Subsidies on millets marketing.
2. Need of higher MSP on millets.
3. Explore international markets
4. Awareness regarding health benefits need to be created.
5. Integrate Millets into PM-Krishi Sampada Yojana - Food processing sector

Millets have huge potential to improve farmers' income as well as nutrition & environment. More focused approach are needed to promote Millets to achieve SDG goals of Zero poverty, Zero Hunger and climate action.

(18) Reforms in Public distribution system (PDS) and Food Corporation of India (FCI) are two sides of the same coin. Discuss the statement along with suitable reforms in PDS and FCI.

National Food Security Act 2013
mandates for Public Distribution System in India, which is operated by Food Corporation of India (FCI) through its supply chain network.

Reform in PDS and FCI →

1. Infrastructure - Improvement requires in the storage infrastructure — need of holistic digitalisation of the process.
eg Geo-tagging of trucks
2. Monitoring - Centralised monitoring system needs to be developed on real-time basis.
3. Legislative reforms - Amendment in NFSA 2013 to allow private sector participation in storage & procurement.

4. Diversification - FCI is mainly storing rice & wheat. Need to create facilities for other products like Millets, oilseeds, pulses etc.
5. Capacity building - of all stakeholders to empower them for right monitoring and handling of food crops
6. Technology - Addition of more tools like gamma irradiation technology, measurement of moisture etc → To reduce phyto-sanitary issues
7. Bio-fuels - Excessive food grains need to be diverted towards biofuel production → To reduce wastage.
8. Long-term policy measures in this regard with more R & D efforts to improve practices of FCI.

Steps taken

1. Digitalisation process is underway.
2. One Nation, One Ration Card for interoperability across India.
3. Re-verification of Ration cards - to weed out inclusion & exclusion errors [e.g] Aadhar linkages

Apart from these, the recommendations of 'Shanta Kumar Committee' should be implemented to transform PDS & FCI for efficient supply chain management.

(19) Discuss the rationale behind declaring Minimum Support Price (MSP) and various issues related to MSP regime in the country. Do you think that providing legal backing to MSP is necessary and sufficient for making farming financially sustainable?

Minimum Support Price (MSP) refers to the minimum guaranteed procurement price provided by Government to farmers on specific products, which are declared before each sowing season.

Rationale behind MSP:

1. Income security for farmer
2. Prevent distress selling of products
3. Ensure food and nutritional security for Indian population.
4. Address issues during disasters like drought and flood.
5. As a support to rural economy through creation of demand with more money in hand.

Issues related to MSP regime :

1. Irrational MSP pricing — More MSP on rice-wheat → promoted monoculture
2. Inequal access to MSP — Absence of APMC mandis in every region
[e.g.] Punjab - APMC within 6 km
Assam - APMC more than 25 km from farm.
3. Lack of transport infra — Small & Marginal farmers → distress sale to large farmers at below MSP price.
4. Limited price discovery → even if high market price — farmers are forced to sell at MSP

MSP — legal backing ?

Need - 1. To mandate MSP by Govt as a right

2. Fix minimum criteria for MSP
3. Equal rights to small & marginal farmer.

Not required -

1. Removes flexibility in planning.
2. Need of how is to diversify market - allow private sector markets
3. Legal backing of MSP - more of a socialist idea

↳ ~~Increase~~

The need is not to provide legal backing to MSP. Rather there need to be rational and scientific MSP policy to be put in place for overall benefits of farmer, environment and consumer.

(20) A link between unorganized farming community and formal industrial sector, FPI can play a key role in advancing the rural economy, Evaluate.

Food-processing Industries contribute to only 1.7% of Gross Value added, despite India being largest producer of rice, horticulture, dairy etc.

A link between unorganised farming community & formal industrial sector → FPI

1. Promotes value addition to farm products
2. Better price realisation by farmer
3. Reduces disguised unemployment
↳ By absorbing excess labour from farms.
4. Promotes women participation in food processing.
5. Formalise economy in rural area.

6. Improves shelf-life of products
7. Promotes export potential of farm products.
8. Employment to rural youth
9. Spatial Integration between urban and rural areas
10. Spread over effect ~~on~~ leading to regional development.

Govt Steps

- ① PM - Krishi Sampada Yojana
- ② Mega Food Parks
- ③ APEDA - led export promotion
- ④ GI-tagged product - better marketing
- ⑤ PM - FME - formalisation of micro-food enterprises.

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