

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	GAURAV OJHA		
Roll No.	1910052940	Date:	31-07-2022.

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 & HINDI, 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>
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Total:	250		

Evaluator's Discretion:

For Student Only

Start Time | 2:15 pm.

End Time | 6:30 pm.

Total Marks:

Mode Of Examination:

Online Offline

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:

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Evaluation Date:

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Q.1) The role of CAG as the highest auditing authority is intrinsically linked to augmenting the efficacy of government policies and undertakings. In this context, examine how independent and efficient working of the CAG can ensure good governance?
(10 marks, 150 words)

उच्चतम लेखा परीक्षा प्राधिकरण के रूप में CAG की भूमिका आंतरिक रूप से सरकारी नीतियों और उपक्रमों की प्रभावकारिता को बढ़ाने से जुड़ी हुई है। इस संदर्भ में, जांच करें कि CAG का स्वतंत्र और दक्ष कार्य किस प्रकार सुशासन सुनिश्चित कर सकता है।
(अंक 10, शब्द 150)

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is one of the ~~both~~ bulwarks of Indian Constitution. As the highest auditing authority, CAG audits the Consolidated Fund of India, and each state, and the Public Account and Contingency Fund. Thus, it examines the appropriation and financing of state's purses, and also the accounts of government departments, certain PSUs and other bodies, upon President/Governor's request.

The independent and efficient working of CAG help in ensuring good governance as :-

→ Efficient guide for Public Accounts Committee-

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Helps PAC raise the right questions to the executive.

→ Questioning the prudence, rationale of expenditures, thus preventing government from acting fiscally extravagant.

→ Ensuring accountability: CAG's role in exposing scams, eg. 2G spectrum case, has made officials act more rationally.

→ Protecting tax-payer's money, so eventually, more people willingly pay taxes.

However, there exist issues, such as presentation of redacted reports to CAG (eg. Rafale case), issues of missing files, expenditures under "OTHER" category, CAG's constant monitoring leading to non-risk taking behaviour in PSU heads that should be looked into, to ensure that CAG continues to function effectively.

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Sustainable alliance between Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the State is critical for social change and development. Highlighting hurdles in this developmental alliance, suggest remedial measures for a more productive partnership. (10 marks, 150 words)

नै-सरकारी संगठनों (NGOs) और राज्य के बीच टिकाऊ गठबंधन सामाजिक परिवर्तन और विकास के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है। इस विकासात्मक गठबंधन में बाधाओं को उजागर करते हुए, अधिक उत्पादक साझेदारी के लिए उपचारात्मक उपायों का सुझाव दें। (अंक 10, शब्द 150)

Sustainable alliance between NGOs and the State is critical for development. As seen during the lockdown (food distribution by State + NGO), vaccine awareness campaigns by NGOs, while vaccination by State - the alliance has proved its mettle.

Certain hurdles that are encountered in this alliance -

1. Lack of trust of State in NGOs - As seen with recent amendments to FCRA, which make it more difficult for state to receive money.

2. NGOs acting anti-state while helping state - Eg. Greenpeace, to help environmental causes, opposing nuclear development; Narmada Bachao

3. Bureaucratic attitude: less willingness to

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share power with NGO workers.

→ Lack of funds: While State itself acts on the welfare front, little money left for collaborative domains.

→ No institutional structure for NGO-state alliance.

→ ~~NGOs~~ Remedial measures could be -

→ allocating budget for priority alliance areas.
eg - child health, vaccination

→ Training functionaries to facilitate state-NGO interaction.

→ Prioritizing certain NGOs, eg. those involved in micro-financing support services to SHGs.

→ Greater autonomy to NGOs for use of their funds,

Indian population poses great trust in NGOs, as revealed in a latest survey. Government should work on capitalizing this trust, by exploring more areas of alliance.

Q.3) Subsidies have morphed into a populist tool to achieve electoral objectives rather than developmental goals. Examine. (10 marks, 150 words)

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विकास के लक्ष्यों के बजाय चुनावी उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए सब्सिडी एक लोकलुभावन उपकरण में बदल गई है। परीक्षण करें। (अंक 10, शब्द 150)

Recently, Supreme Court has asked Centre to express its views on the use of freebies as an election-winning tool.

The use of subsidies offer before elections is getting rampant →

- offer of free bus-service for a gender
- free water, electricity under certain usage
- free laptops for students, etc.

This populist tool distracts from developmental goals, as →

→ Inefficient use of limited state funds.

→ Distraction of electorate from the past performance of the government.

→ "A race for subsidies" - Where each party puts up a bigger subsidy than the other.

→ Criminalization of politics - As subsidies

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need money, thus leading to money laundering, etc, entry of criminals in politics.

→ Parties get a free pass to lower their development targets in their manifesto by using freebies.

However, subsidies have a certain importance -

→ Huge inequality in India - Thus, the subsidies are necessary.

→ DPSPs ask the State to act as a welfare state.

→ Lower out of pocket expenditure allows electorate to invest more on health and education, leading to more GDP of State.

Subsidies should not be used as a golden-ticket for winning elections. ~~Cater~~ Rational categorizing of its beneficiaries, while also focussing on State development, should be the way forward.

Q.4) National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) can be most effective when its tasks are adequately supported by other mechanisms that improve the voice of the tribals. Discuss.

(10 marks, 150 words)

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राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग (NCST) सबसे प्रभावी हो सकता है जब इसके कार्यों को अन्य तंत्रों द्वारा पर्याप्त रूप से समर्थित किया जाता है जो आदिवासियों की आवाज को उठाते हैं। चर्चा करें।

(अंक 10, शब्द 150)

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes under Article 338 has the constitutional mandate to work for the welfare of tribals.

However, being mostly of a recommendatory nature, its effectiveness can be increased by other mechanisms, such as -

1. Power to enforce its judgement while taking suo-motu actions.
2. Funds with the body to redress grievances of the tribals.
3. Executive should be answerable to Parliament for non-implementation of reforms suggested by NCST.

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4. Selection Committee formation to suggest members of NCST, who should be drawn from experts.

5. Implementation of FOREST RIGHTS Act in its true spirit.

6. Promotion of government schemes like TRI FOOD, works of TRIFED.

7. Eklavya Residential Model Schools for better education.

The Constitution under Art 46 instructs State to make provisions for the betterment of weaker sections.

SDG-8 of inclusive growth shall also be achieved further.

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Q.5) Normalization of poverty as a feature of large population overshadows the lack of intent and capacity of political and administrative institutions. Do you agree? Justify using suitable examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

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बड़ी आबादी की विशेषता के रूप में गरीबी का सामान्यीकरण करना राजनीतिक और प्रशासनिक संस्थानों की मंशा और क्षमता की कमी को ढक लेता है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? उपयुक्त उदाहरणों का प्रयोग करते हुए औचित्य सिद्ध कीजिए। (अंक 10, शब्द 150)

India, with a population of over 1.3 billion, has the highest number of people living in poverty.

While some economists say that poverty is a feature of a large population. But this does not justify the lack of intent and responsibility of state institutions -

→ Despite the 2021-22 budget allocation for MGNREGA falling short of demand, even lesser allocation was made to the employment guarantee scheme for 2022-23.

→ ~~to~~ Lack of skill development programs → Skilling and job employment are fastest means to eliminate poverty. Resource crunch with National Skill Development Corporation, lack of Training institutes, awareness issues, still exist

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→ Neglected health sector - Leading to over 60% Out-of-Pocket health expenditure - further pushing into poverty -

→ Shortage of micro-finance institutions - And very high rates charged by existing institutions .

→ Leakage of funds meant for welfare, rampant institutional corruption .

→ Multiple licenses for opening firms → loss of employment generating centres → poverty persists .

Thus, by not providing institutional support, the problem of poverty is further getting compounded.

welfare schemes like Ujjawala, AYUSHMAN Bharat shall be further promoted, while schemes like STARTUP India, Atmanirbhar Bharat should be utilized to generate jobs & lift people from poverty, ensuring -
SDG-1 - No poverty .

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Q.6) While in the soci

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131273651054.1910052940 (2022-08-07 16:41:07) While manual scavenging is legally banned, socio-economic realities perpetuate this practice in the society. Comment on the suggestions measured to deal with the menace of this social evil.

(10 marks, 150 words)

जबकि हाथ से मैला ढोना पर कानूनी रूप से प्रतिबंधित है, फिर भी सामाजिक-आर्थिक वास्तविकताएं समाज में इस प्रथा को कायम रखे हुए हैं। टिप्पणी करें। इस सामाजिक बुराई के खतरे से निपटने के उपाय सुझाएं।

(अंक 10, शब्द 150)

Manually Scavenging, while banned, still exists due to socio-economic reasons -

1. Extreme poverty necessitates people to opt for any source of income.

2. Caste connections - Historically, the task of manual scavenging has been associated with particular castes.

This injustice is still carried out, largely in rural areas, but also in urban.

3. Social ostracization - In rural areas, families of persons doing manual scavenging are socially isolated, not offered jobs, education, etc. Thus, they continue with this task.

4. Absence of piped toilet connections in several areas - Thus, there exists demand for manual scavenging.

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The measures to deal with this menace-

1. Strict enforcement of penalty - for forcing someone to do manual scavenging.
2. Rehabilitation of manual scavengers - Providing them skills for other jobs.
3. Use of technology - IIT-Madras recently developed an autonomous robot that could undertake the scavenging task.
4. Construction of piped toilets; Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to promote pits construction.
5. Awareness among ppl - That not to force anyone to engage in this task, and rescue anyone in it.

SDG-8 & requires proper livelihood opportunities to all. In further pursuance of Article 21, Right to life with dignity, this social evil should be eliminated in a mission mode.

Q.7) Indi strategic

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Q.7) India's response to Ukraine crisis is an expression of strategic autonomy and not a reflection of strategic compulsions. Examine.

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(10 marks, 150 words)

यूक्रेन संकट पर भारत की प्रतिक्रिया सामरिक स्वायत्तता की अभिव्यक्ति है न कि सामरिक बाध्यताओं का प्रतिबिंब। परीक्षण करें। (अंक 10, शब्द 150)

The Russia-Ukraine conflict, fuelled by Ukraine's decision to join NATO, has continued for over 5 months now.

Despite much persuasion and pressure from the west, India did not vote against Russia in the UNSC vote, and neither criticized its move.

This is an expression of strategic autonomy, and not a reflection of strategic compulsion, as-

- India has openly condemned ^{any form of} violence in the ongoing issue.
- A nation's foreign policy should be about securing its own self-interests.
- India's action facilitated it to evacuate its citizens from Ukraine.
- India Acting in defence of one's national

security interests is reflective of one's
autonomy - thus, to prevent Russia's tilt to
Pakistan and China.

→ India did not shy away from Russia's
killing of Bucha Town in Ukraine. ^{condemning}

→ Russia has been a decades old friend of
India, and is a major defence equipment
supplier.

→ By delineating US support for Indo-pacific
with India's independence in matters inside
Asia, India has expressed its strategic
autonomy.

However, there is an element of compulsion, as
China had expressed unilateral support for
Russia. And several India - Russia defence
deals are in pipeline.

The global community should strengthen
UNSC, and bring both nations to the table to
end the conflict.

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Q.8) Comment on the utility and effectiveness of soft power for furthering national interest. Can soft power replace hard power in international politics? (10 marks, 150 words)

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राष्ट्रीय हित को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए सॉफ्ट पावर की उपयोगिता और प्रभावशीलता पर टिप्पणी करें। क्या अंतरराष्ट्रीय राजनीति में सॉफ्ट पावर हार्ड पावर की जगह ले सकती है? (अंक 10, शब्द 150)

Soft power is the use of culture, people-to-people relations, and similar tools in foreign policy, as opposed to military strength and economic strength, which constitute hard power.

Soft power is effective, as -

- Relations built on people-to-people connections last longer in global arena.
- Soft power helps in promoting global image:
Eg. bollywood globally, tollywood represent Indian values worldwide.
- The recent rise of Korean-Drama has added to South Korea's soft power.
- Promotion of Yoga, non-violence as soft-power tool have helped in building India's image as world leader.
- The vaccine diplomacy by India - This soft

power helped India secure at health
discussion tables globally.

However, soft power cannot entirely replace
the need for hard power, as -

→ Security of borders needs hard power.

→ India's economic potential made US
pull back sanctions on India after its

nuclear tests.

→ India's role as net security provider in
the region, and as a balancing power against
China, needs hard power.

India should continue to focus on both methods.
Soft power should be promoted to make
the world more peaceful, without neglecting
the need to develop hard power for
challenging times.

Q.9) India
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Q.9) India and Japan have enjoyed very cordial relations with substantial shared interests, but it also tends to be one that has been low on ambition, limited in outcomes and high in rhetoric. Critically examine. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत और जापान के बीच भले ही पर्याप्त साझा हितों के साथ बहुत सौहार्दपूर्ण संबंध रहे हों, लेकिन इसमें ऐसा भी है जो महत्वाकांक्षा में निम्न, परिणामों में सीमित और बयानबाजी में उच्च रहा है। समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India and Japan share cordial relations, based on both cultural, as well as economic relations.

However, the India - Japan relationship has been limited in outcomes ~~as~~ as can be seen -

→ Asia - Africa Growth Corridor in limbo - An India - Japan initiative to counter BRI of China, the project has not picked up pace.

→ Other than automobile, Japan's investment into India has been low in other sectors.

→ Slow pace of the Mumbai - Ahmedabad High Speed Rail corridor - making Japanese investors

→ Incomplete deal of the US-2 amphibious aircraft.

⇒ However But there are also positive aspects to the relationship -

→ Multilateral engagement: India - Japan form a part of QUAD. They also ^{raise} voice for UNSC reforms.

→ Japan has called forth India to strengthen Supply Chain Resilience Initiative.

→ India is a strategic partner of Japan. Japan under its 'China + 1' strategy is looking to shift investments to India.

→ Malabar Naval exercises, jointly with the US.

India - Japan should move away from mere rhetoric and make the relation more concrete by finishing the scheduled projects on time.

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Q.10) India's relation with West Asia has acquired depth and diversity that can navigate geopolitical hurdles. Comment.

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(10 marks, 150 words)

पश्चिम एशिया के साथ भारत के संबंधों ने गहराई और विविधता हासिल कर ली है जो भू-राजनीतिक बाधाओं को दूर कर सकती है। टिप्पणी करें।
(अंक 10, शब्द 150)

India's relation with West Asia has a civilizational component (ancient trade links) as well as strategic, economic and people to people relationship.

This gives the relationship depth to navigate geopolitical hurdles. Some aspects of relationship are -

1. India recently joined the New Quad-12U2 (India, Israel, USA, UAE).
2. India depends on West Asia for energy security -
3. India has supported connectivity projects in West Asia, such as INSTC, Chabahar port, TAPI pipeline.
4. West Asia relies upon India for food security.

Israel relations have further strengthened
defence, as well as technology transfer in various
fields, eg - agriculture.

Some geopolitical hurdles being faced by this
relationship are -

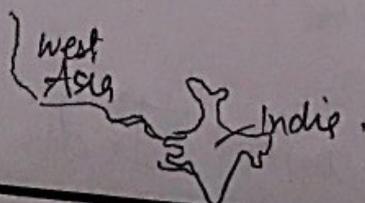
→ US sanctions on Iran, and bitat unilateral
withdrawal from JCPOA.

→ Conflict within West Asia - Shia Iran vs Sunni
Saudi Arabia, and Israel-Palestine conflict.

→ Recent domestic comments in India led to backlash
in West Asian countries.

→ Pakistan has been using Organizⁿ of Islamic
Countries (OIC) as its mouthpiece for Kashmir
issue.

India needs to de-hyphenate its relations
within the area. Recent acquiry of Duqm port
in Oman, and West Asia's access to choke points (eg. Hormuz)
make this area more important.



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Q11) Harnessing public sector data is vital for informed decision making, accelerating socio-economic transformation and democratizing innovation in the country. In this context, highlight the various benefits of public data sharing and suggest strategies for unlocking true value of data. (15 marks, 250 words)

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के डेटा का उपयोग सूचित निर्णय लेने, सामाजिक-आर्थिक परिवर्तन में तेजी लाने और देश में नवाचार को लोकतांत्रिक बनाने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है। इस संदर्भ में, सार्वजनिक डेटा साझाकरण में विभिन्न बाधाओं को उजागर करें और डेटा के वास्तविक मूल्य को अनलॉक करने के लिए रणनीति सुझाएं। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

Public sector data is the data generated by the public, and various of government organizations.

Harnessing this data is vital for many areas-

1. Informed Decision making - Eg health data from hospitals to determine area, and strength, and duration of lockdown.

2. Socio-economic transformation - Using sites like MyGov.in for feedbacks, sending weather forecast data to fisherman, health state to ascertain efficacy of govt schemes like Anaemia - Mukht Bharat, etc.

3. Democratizing Innovation - Using people's data GPS data to determine peak traffic hours, suitable road construction, etc.

Using ~~analysis~~ ^{data} of people search history to predict outbreaks of diseases

However, there exist bottlenecks in public data sharing -

1. Privacy issues - Absence of any Data Protection legislation.

2. Digital divide -

Rural-urban: Sharing data to rural areas continues to be a challenging task.

Male-female: There are lesser female Smartphone users. Harnessing data sharing will further enhance the divide.

3. Lack of telecom networks in remote parts.

4. Credibility of data; data can also be tampered with growing concerns of cyber security.

5. Increased issues of government surveillance with

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greater collection of data, eg. use of Automated Facial Recognition Technology.

6. Social biases can exist in data, leading to incorrect decision making.

To unlock the true potential of data -

→ Passing Data Protection Legislation.

→ Closing digital divide. Providing basic smartphones to all.

→ Lower internet data charges by ensuring competitive market.

→ Digital education. Eg PM-Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan, Use of CSCs in villages.

→ Data verification portals, to avoid misuse of data for instigatory crimes.

Data is the new oil. From health to education to innovation, it can benefit all areas.

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Q.12) Examine the significance of Representation of People's Act, 1951 in maintaining the sanctity of electoral politics in India. In light of recent events, evaluate the demands of Election Commission of India for reforms in RPA 1951 and Code of Conduct. (15 marks, 250 words)

भारत में चुनावी राजनीति की पवित्रता को बनाए रखने में जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 के महत्व का परीक्षण करें। हाल की घटनाओं के आलोक में, RPA 1951 और आदर्श आचार संहिता में सुधार के लिए भारत के चुनाव आयोग की मांगों का मूल्यांकन करें। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

The Representation of People's Act, 1951 is aimed at specifying the qualification, disqualification for electoral candidates and various electoral malpractices.

It is significant in maintaining the sanctity of electoral politics in India, as →.

→ Disqualification of candidates → The power rests with President / Governor, upon recommendation of EC.

→ Mandatory declaration of assets → Makes an attempt of making the representatives accountable.

→ Decriminalization of politics - By disqualifying convicted candidates from the election.

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maintaining electoral integrity. - By restricting various form of advertisement 48 hrs before the polls.

→ Criminalizing hate speech, anti-secular speeches, etc.

However, despite these, there exist further scope to strengthen law as demanded by ECI -

1. Power to ECI to deregister political parties.
2. Power Criminalize bribery of voters.
3. Regulation of digital media electoral campaigning ~~by~~ the Act.
- ~~4. Penalizing paid promotion~~
4. Stricter enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct.

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"Addressing the problem of chronic malnutrition in the country requires nutrition-specific as well as nutrition-sensitive interventions." Analyze.
 (15 marks, 250 words)

"देश में दीर्घकालिक व गंभीर कुपोषण की समस्या का समाधान करने के लिए पोषण-विशिष्ट के साथ-साथ पोषण-संवेदनशील हस्तक्षेप की आवश्यकता है।" विश्लेषण करें।
 (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

The Recent Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey, in collaboration with Ministry of Health and family welfare, covered both macro and micro nutrients, and other parameters, such as blood pressure.

It revealed that India has both types of malnutrition - over-nutrition and under nutrition.

Thus, addressing the problem of chronic malnutrition requires both Nutrient-specific and nutrient-sensitive interventions -

Nutrient-specific nutrition involves interventions such as -
 → Food fortification to address deficiencies in diet.

↳ Iodisation of salt carried out nationwide.

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→ Mid-day meal scheme → children show 35% less stunting and wasting.

→ ICDS, Mission Poshan 2.0, National Food Security Act - to address non-availability of food.

→ Dietary diversity - by promoting millets, fruits, etc.

A major role is also by Nutrient-SENSITIVE interventions - these do not directly provide food, but impact health →

→ Family Planning - Easier access to contraceptives.

Free vasectomy / tubectomy should be provided for.

→ Delayed Marriage - Research shows girls who marry early are more prone to give birth to children

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with health difficulties.

→ More education, jobs - again leads to family planning, delayed marriage - women get a say in family planning matters.

→ Promoting WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene).

Thus, by a mix of both nutrient-specific and sensitive interventions, India should progress on SDG-2 - Zero Hunger and SDG-3 - Health for all.

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Q.14) Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are an effective model of social entrepreneurship for women empowerment and have multiplier effects on development in rural areas. Elaborate with suitable examples. (15 marks, 250 words)

स्वयं सहायता समूह (SHGs) महिला सशक्तिकरण के लिए सामाजिक उद्यमिता का एक प्रभावी मॉडल है और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में विकास प्रक्रियाओं पर कई गुना प्रभाव डालते हैं। उपयुक्त उदाहरणों के साथ विस्तृत व्याख्या करें। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

Self-Help Groups are informal groups, consisting of 10-15 people generally. These groups lend money within themselves, and also get easier financing from banks.

MODEL of social entrepreneurship for women empowerment → .

→ Of all the SHGs, almost 90% members are female.

→ Working in an SHG boosts their management skills and social confidence.

→ Data shows that probability of

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default by women SHG on their loans is lower.

→ SHGs, along with ASHA and Anganwadi workers - help secure better nutrition & delivery care for pregnant and lactating women, better nutrition for child.

→ Schemes like National Rural Livelihood Mission - Provide SHGs with funds - that can be used for employment generation.

→ LIJJA Papad, by Mahila Griha Udyog (SHG), is a success model.

→ Micro-financing of women SHGs has better outcomes for health and education of women and children in the area.

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SHGs should get support of Panchayats, and lower interest finance, guaranteed by State, to further build upon this progress.

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Success of welfare schemes depends on whether they are built on principles of participation and work with a sense of accountability. Discuss.

कल्याणकारी योजनाओं की सफलता इस बात पर निर्भर करती है कि क्या वे भागीदारी के सिद्धांतों पर बनी हैं और जवाबदेही के ढांचे के भीतर काम करती हैं। चर्चा करें।
(15 marks, 250 words)
(अंक 15, शब्द 250)

Welfare schemes work better when they are built on principles of participation and not simply imposed from above.

→ The Deen Dayal Upadhyay - National Rural Livelihood Mission works by promoting formation of SHGs, and providing them with ~~rotating~~ funds.

The scheme has turned out a great success in helping generate employment for rural poor.

→ The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan achieved success by connecting cleanliness and toilet construction into a people's movement, with third-party verification.

→ MGNREGA provides for social audits of work done. (Accountability)

→ the MPLADS scheme involves audit of 10% of works in a year.

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Thus, it can be seen that schemes with clearly people's participation and accountability mechanism ~~turn~~ are a success, as -

1. Participation adds a sense of responsibility
2. Accountability mechanisms ensure official behaviour is checked, and people can have their grievances addressed through RTIs, etc citizen charters, etc.

∴ A counter example can be seen in the efforts by government to boost oxygen production in India after 1st phase of COVID pandemic. No accountability and no public participation led to utter failure of the efforts.

Q.16) Why do Indian universities find it difficult to break into the ranks of top global universities?
(15 marks, 250 words)

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भारतीय विश्वविद्यालयों के लिए शीर्ष वैश्विक विश्वविद्यालयों की श्रेणी में आना मुश्किल क्यों है? भारतीय उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों को वैश्विक शिक्षा केंद्रों में कैसे बदला जा सकता है? (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

The QS University Rankings do not have any university from India in the top 100. India has also been unable to develop into a preferred centre of higher education for students from America and Europe.

The reasons for this are-

1) Lack of research in Indian universities-

Most of it is sponsored by the Govt, which spends around 0.6% of GDP on research. (South Korea spends 8%).

The private sector does not sponsor much research in universities either.

2) Lack of renowned faculty- Most of the highly educated educators teach abroad.

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due to better salary and lifestyle opportunities.

- 3) ~~Com~~ Difficult criteria to be a teacher in India discourages Indian educators staying abroad from applying in Indian Universities.
- 4) Security concerns of students ~~from~~ about coming to India for education.
- 5) Outdated course structure, less pursuit of the latest innovations, eg. A.I.
- 6) Political atmosphere of some universities fetches them negative scores on the rankings
- 7) Indian students themselves seek higher education abroad, thus slowing the pace of higher education ecosystem in India.

India was once the centre of learning for the world over, during ancient times.

To regain that status and transform Indian institutions into global centres of learning -

particulars on latest innovations -
 → Boost research, particularly on latest innovations -
 AI, ML, etc.

→ More autonomy to institutions for fixing syllabus
 Eg. "Institutes of Eminence" scheme

→ Attract talent through better remuneration

→ Strengthen law and order so foreign students feel safe in studying in India.

→ Boost tie-ups with foreign institutes for exchange of students and faculty.

→ Boost India's soft power (by promotion of culture, values, yoga, etc.) to attract youth to stay in India.

Universities play an important role in producing leaders, scientists and engineers of tomorrow. By increasing GDP allocation to education, and creation of National Research Fund, as provided in NEP-2020 would be a positive step in the direction

Q.17) The second decade of 21st century marks a collective failure of UN and its agencies. Examine this statement citing suitable examples. (15 marks, 250 words)

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21वीं सदी का दूसरा दशक संयुक्त राष्ट्र और उसकी एजेंसियों की सामूहिक विफलता का प्रतीक है। उपयुक्त उदाहरण देते हुए इस कथन का परीक्षण कीजिए। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

The UN was established in 1945 as a body to ensure peace and security, humanitarian aid, and later sustainable development.

However, the 21st century marks a collective failure of UN and its agencies-

1. Russia-Ukraine Conflict: The UNSC has failed to end the conflict even after 5 months.
2. COVID pandemic: WHO failed in its containment, leading to massive global disasters.
3. Trade instability - WTO is failing in its agenda, with US hijacking the appointments and no action on China's predatory practices.

→ Nuclear proliferation — International Atomic Energy Agency failed to contain the spread of nuclear secrets to North Korea & Iran.

→ Turkey's conversion of Hagia Sophia into a mosque shows failure of UN on the cultural front.

→ Tensions in Syria, Afghanistan etc. further show failure of UN.

However, the UN has ~~not~~ also made the following successes —

→ Humanitarian aid in Syria, Afghanistan, etc.

→ UNFCCC success in Paris Climate Deal.

→ Its Columbia Mission succeeded in ending the political tensions there.

→ Ebola's successful containment by WHO.

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→ WTO's partial success in vaccine patent waivers, fisheries for developing countries, Peace clause for Agriculture.
 → UN Peacekeeping forces worldwide have helped
 It is time for UN to undergo a ^{in peace} total uniform, with a more diverse representation in the UNSC by including developing countries like India.

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Q.18) ASEAN is not only important for development of North-East but also it remains India's gateway to East Asia and beyond. Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

आसियान न केवल उत्तर-पूर्व के विकास के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है बल्कि यह पूर्वी एशिया और उससे आगे के लिए भारत का प्रवेश द्वार भी बना हुआ है। चर्चा कीजिए।

ASEAN is an intergovernmental organization of 10 nations, in the Indo Pacific region.



It is ~~very~~ important for the development

of North-East, as →.

→ Development of Indo - Myanmar - Thailand Trilateral highway, and Kaladan Multimodal Project will bring investments and development in the North East.

→ People-to-people contacts of North-East to Myanmar will be boosted.

→ Safer ASEAN means lesser trafficking

and illegal cross-border trade along North-East. (India carries out border security operation with Myanmar).

→ Greater investments by ASEAN nations into North East, if NE is made entry-point of India to ASEAN.

ASEAN is also for India as gateway to East Asia and beyond -

→ India strives to be the net-security provider in the Indian Ocean Region. So, needs cordial relations with ASEAN.

→ Through FTA with ASEAN, Indian products get reach to East Asia.

→ ASEAN has access to Sea Lines of Connectivity (SLOCs) in the Indo-Pacific region.

Thus, an important gateway.

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→ The very - important 'Strait of Malacca' near Indonesia is a major trade route for India.

→ India's humanitarian assistance to ASEAN (eg. during TSUNAMI) build global image of India - thus gateway to entire world.

India should continue engaging ASEAN under its Act East Policy, SAGAR, and cultural missions like Project MAUSAM. Chinese influence should be countered.

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Q.19) USA-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for prosperity (IPEF) is an economic initiative to complement its existing relationships in the Indo-Pacific region. Analyze the significance of and challenges to IPEF in the present scenario. (15 marks, 250 words)

समृद्धि के लिए संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के नेतृत्व वाला इंडो-पैसिफिक इकोनॉमिक फ्रेमवर्क (IPEF) इंडो-पैसिफिक क्षेत्र में अपनी मौजूदा सुरक्षा साझेदारी को पूरा करने के लिए एक आर्थिक पहल है। वर्तमान परिदृश्य में IPEF के महत्व और चुनौतियों का विश्लेषण करें। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

The recently launched IPEF is a US-led initiative to revive the unstable world economy.

It is an economic initiative →

→ It is based on 4 pillars -

a) Connectivity (Economic).

b) Resilient → Strengthening supply chains. Ending our dependence.

c) Clean → Decarbonisation, greener economy.

d) Transparent - anti-corruption, greater flexibility in negotiations.

→ It is a 660-million dollar initiative in the Indo-Pacific, to complement US security partnerships, like QUAD and AUKUS.

→ It seeks to promote a platform for greater negotiations, and avoiding debt traps for the developing world.

→ It also provides for higher standards for digital trade, such as cross-border data flows.

Challenges to IPEF →

→ It is being seen as a counter to China's BRI. Thus, there may be resistance from China.

→ US may try to impose its dominance. Asking nations to change their laws, tariffs etc.

→ Developing countries voice may be sidelined as, ~~usual~~ in IMF, etc.

→ May see similar fate to Blue Dot

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initiative, that did not accomplish much post announcement.

The Indo-Pacific comprises 40% of global GDP, thus highlighting the economic potential of the region. IPEF should strive to be a consensus based platform, and boost the regions' economy in a sustainable manner.

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Q.20) BRICS has a potential towards reformed multilateralism but suffers from numerous internal contradictions. Discuss, in light of recently concluded 14th BRICS summit. (15 marks, 250 words)

ब्रिक्स में बहुपक्षवाद समर्थित सुधार की दिशा में मार्ग का नेतृत्व करने की क्षमता है लेकिन कई आंतरिक अंतर्विरोधों से ग्रस्त हैं। हाल ही में संपन्न 14वें ब्रिक्स शिखर सम्मेलन के आलोक में चर्चा करें। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

BRICS is an intergovernmental organization comprising economies like India, China, Russia and Pakistan. It focus on economic, security and cultural aspects.

Path BRICS leading path for reformed multilateralism —

- Creation of New Development Bank, to support projects in Developing countries
- Contingency Reserve Agreement, of on the lines of IMF's SDRs.
- Openly calls against all forms of terrorism.

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→ Student exchange programs.

→ The 14th BRICS summit was attended by Russia as well. Thus, this route can be adopted for mediating Russia-Ukraine conflict.

BUT, there are internal contradictions

1. China talks of inclusive growth in BRICS, but → transgression by PLA of China along LAC, tensions in Arunachal Pradesh Border.
2. Although terrorism is condemned, China has blocked inclusion of LET terrorist member in UN Sanction's List.
3. Pakistan embraces state sponsored terrorism through its policy of bleeding India with a thousand cuts.

→ China engages in debt track diplomacy while calling for sustainable economic growth inside BRICS.

→ China also obstructs India's entry into Nuclear Suppliers Group.

The contradictions need to be reconciled, through negotiations and discussions. BRICS has potential to be a major Asian economic grouping

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