

GENERAL STUDIES

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INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS	
Q.No	Max.Marks	Marks Obtained		
1	10	3.5	1. Please write your Name, Email, UPSC Roll No. and Mobile number in the answer sheet	
2	10	4	2. There are 20 questions printed in English, all questions are compulsory	
3	10	4	3. The number of marks carried by a question or part is indicated against it.	
4	10	4.5	4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate (English), which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided.	
5	10	2.5	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 struck off.	
6	10	3		
7	10	3		
8	10	0		
9	10	0	Any specific message from Educrat IAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy? Mentor's Remarks:	
10	10	0	
11	15	6	
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19	15	6	Start Time: 9:34	End Time:
20	15	6.5	Mode of Examination:	Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
Total Marks		93	TEST CODE:	Medium of Examination:

1. In what ways can land reforms contribute towards holistic development of agriculture? Also, critically analyze the achievements of land reforms in country. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Land is one of the most vital inputs of agriculture. Holistic land reforms can cause holistic development of agriculture in the country.

mention about land reforms in short.

How Land reforms can help

① Land-bank → most of the agricultural lands are (82%) are below 2 hectare → which makes farm mechanisation, collective buying of input / selling of product difficult.

② Investment in land can be better utilised by ensuring collective bargaining power of farmers, formal credit co-operations

④ ensures equitable access to agricultural land

④ reforms for rights of sharecroppers & agricultural land tenants

⑤ soil health card → improves productivity & price realisation.

Land reforms in India

Points	Remarks
① Equitable distribution of land	① Still maximum farmers are small or medium farmers
② Access to land by many who were previously deprived	② regional success in land reforms - not national success
③ Support by policy measures	

more issues to be mentioned here

Thus, ~~state~~ land reforms though in need of improvements ~~and~~ is a success in overall.

2. National Monetization Pipeline (NMP) has the potential of providing a positive trigger for the economy by designing a roadmap for realizing the true value of underutilized government assets. In context of the statement, examine the opportunities and challenges involved. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

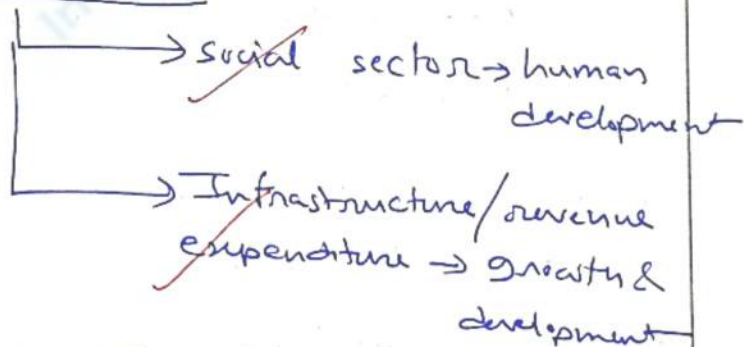
National Monetization Pipeline (NMP) is the government initiative to realise value for underutilised government assets ✓

opportunities of NMP-

① Not disinvestment or sell off

- only leasing of underutilised properties

② Boost to govt spending by realised money



③ crowding in of private players ✓

- (4) Boost to financial sector
- (5) Use of underutilised properties will make the government institutions / PSUs more profitable ensuring a virtuous cycle of growth.

Challenges

- (1) insufficient response of private players - domestically globally
- (2) Inefficiency of government in price realisation - lack of subject matter/domain expertise
- (3) Bureaucratic ^{regulatory} cholesterol → slow development of process

- (4) (lack of single window, transparent mechanism in place) ??
- (5) policy uncertainty

Conclusion

asset specific challenges → *regulatory tariffs*
low levels of capacity utilization
low interest among investors in FTA
multiple stakeholders for govt doesn't

3. How has the Industrial policy in India evolved since independence? Have these policies succeeded in attaining their objectives? Argue your case. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

India was a country with very poor levels of industry at independence, with only few industries developed during the swadeshi period.

Evolution of Industrial policy

Phase - I → till 1970s → closed economy - focus on ~~labour~~ manufacturing (2nd FYP)

Phase - II → 1970s - 1990s → state control of industries
→ Nationalisation of banks, insurance sector
(breeded License Raj, Bureaucratic control)

Phase 3 → 1991 - 2010s → LPA reforms,
open market economy

Phase 4 → 2010s - Now → government support to boost local industries (es. make in India, PLI, RoDTEP scheme, SEZ, PM-DESH etc)

Success in achieving objectives

① Boost in economy → 70% poverty in 1950s to 28% in 2000s.
→ 5th largest economy

② trade surplus in service sector
since past decade.

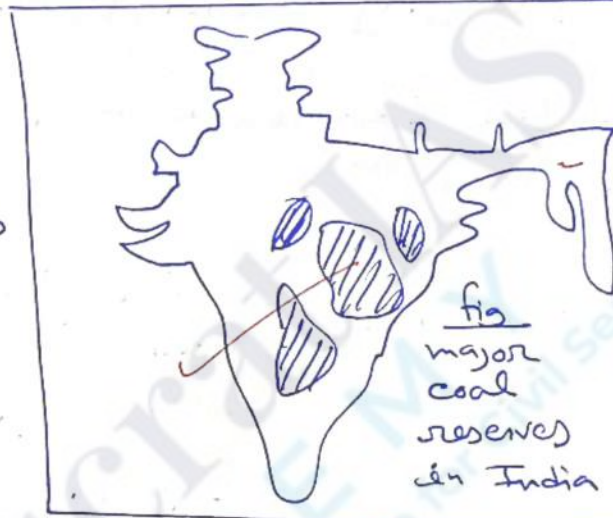
③ Significance presence in technological sectors world wide

Problems of Industrial policies → missed opportunity during the rise of china (era of ~~socialist~~ closed economy)
→ leap from Agri to service sector

Thus, Industrial policies have rightly steered india's growth and will continue to do so.

4. Despite a bountiful reserve of coal, its shortage has become systematic and perennial. Highlighting the causes, recommend some corrective measures. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

India has bountiful coal reserve.
However, this has not led to huge growth of the sector.



causes

① low quality of Indian coal (mostly lignite, pit) → Need for more coal to produce same energy

② High sulphur content of Indian coal (Leads to Fly - Ash)

③ Technical deficiencies → lack of proper usage of fly-ash to cement & other industry

④ Import dependence → lowering of imports

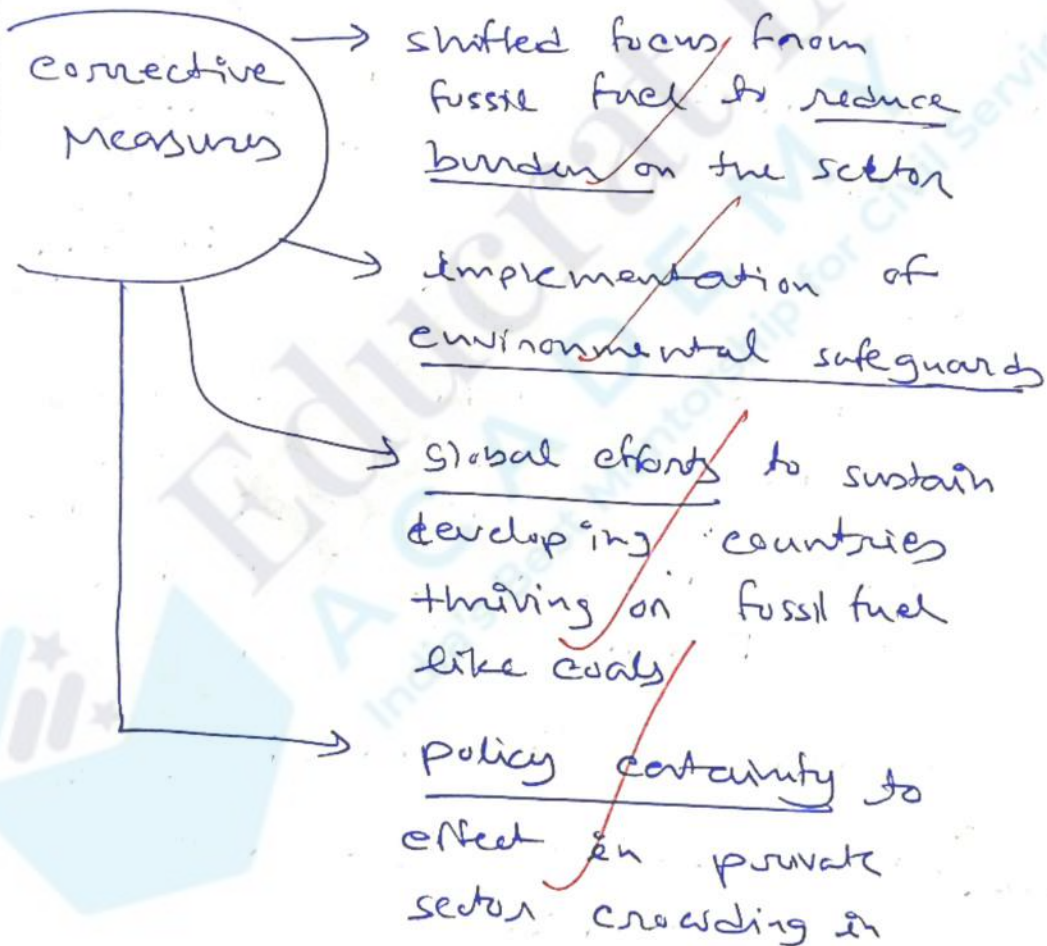
⑤ over reliance of coal as a fuel.
(has its environmental impact)

4th largest coal reserve
352.13 billion metric tons

* flooding and
* rain fall
* waiting delay
* pilferage

⑤ policy paralysis → uncertainty
in policy & regarding mining
quarrying licensing etc.

⑥ Less involvement of private
players



These methods can help revive
the coal sector in India.

5. Evaluate the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) in addressing the challenges of Public Private Partnership (PPP) in the country.
(Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

minimum of
EPC + BOT
40%

(Hybrid annuity model) is the model where property ~~created~~ / Infrastructure created in PPP mode is left to the private partner to operate and ~~the~~ both the government and the private partner continues to earn revenue from the infrastructure.

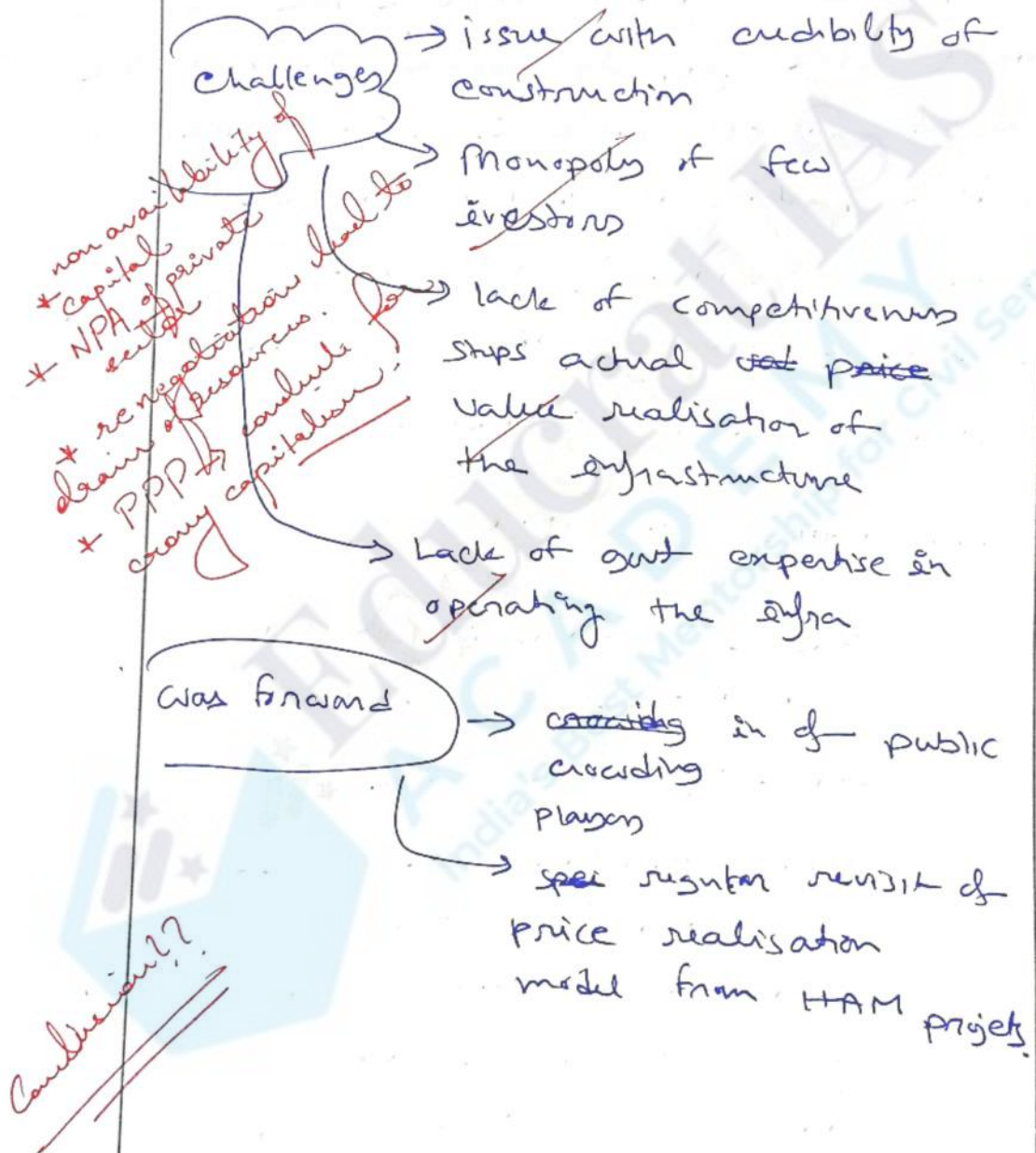
Opportunities in HAM

* Used in projects with high initial cost
* Cuts the overall cost of the project
* Improve project return
* Spreading risk between govt and developer

① Ensures immediate revenue generation as soon as the infrastructure is ready.

② Ample opportunity for course correction in revenue generation — unlike BOT model where the government can generate revenue after a certain period when

Private players have transferred the infrastructure



6. The MSME sector is a significant contributor to industrial output, employment generation, and exports; however, its potential remains untapped due to several factors. Elucidate. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Honble PM has termed MSME sector as 'employment generators' & engine of economic growth

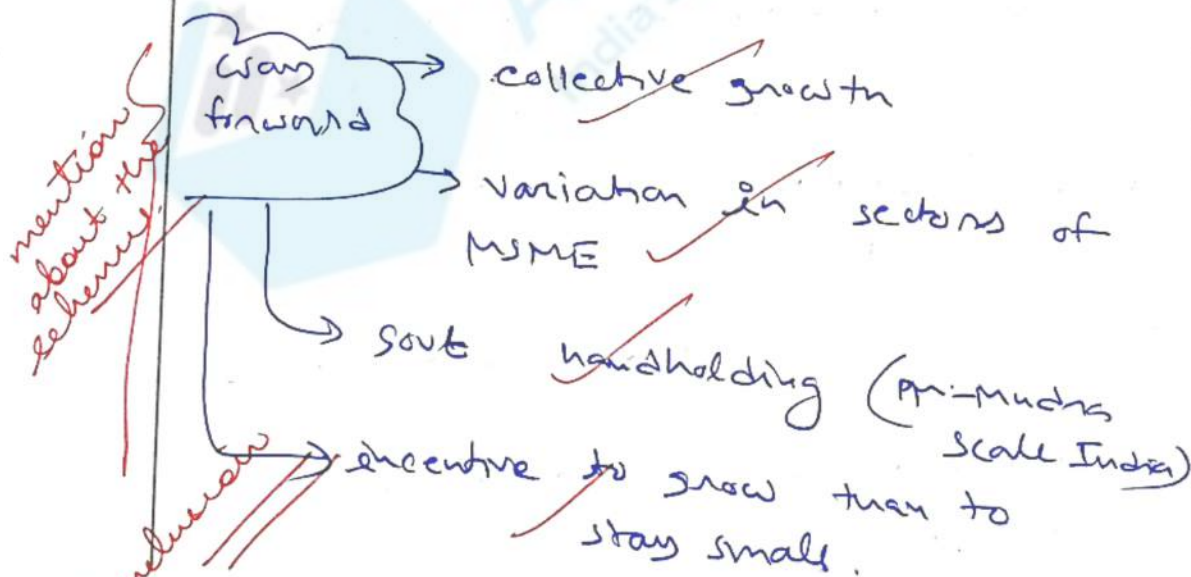
Reasons

- ① Huge employment generation
- ② Builds brand value of Indian products in export market
- ③ variety in products & services
eg - charkha to chandrayan
(Hable PM)
- ④ self sufficiency to local economies
- ⑤ saves economy from global shocks
- ⑥ abides by swaraj model of andhi.

provide data
contribution to exports, GDP, employment generation

Issues - leading to untapped potentials

- ① missing middle → incentive to stay small leads to averageness to growth.
- ② unreliable ~~marked~~ lack of formal training - hand holding
- ③ lack of forward backward linkages.
- ④ regional development of MSMEs - lack of collective voice for policy persuasion



7. What do you understand from Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation (LPG)? Examine the effects of LPG reforms on different sectors of Indian economy. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)




+ve effects *on Agri* → green revolution

ve effects *service sector* → export of services (India trade surplus in this sector) → *more points for award* → *force* ↑

manufacture → technology intake, part of global supply chain

8. A robust infrastructure sector is indispensable for putting the country in a consistent socio-economic growth trajectory. Analyse the statement and evaluate the role of PM-Gatishakti and National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) in infrastructure development of the country? (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

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9. 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. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

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10. Why has Indian Railways been unable to become competitive, fast, and efficient as their counterparts in developed economies? Discuss the need and ways to its holistic overhaul. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Issues will



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11. The role of private sector is indispensable in increasing India's share in the global space industry. Highlighting the challenges faced by the private sector, suggest measures for facilitating their greater participation. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

With the recent launch of Chandrayan-3, there is ~~re~~ renewed focus on the space sector which brings with it the question of participation of private sector in space industry.

Challenges faced by pvt sector in space industry —

1. unclear division of roles & responsibility with ISRO being the sole player (from govt sector) for a very long time, roles of pvt sectors can play are unclear.
2. more focus on operations than manufacture & support activities (76% pvt players in operation sector of space)

- ③ No clear guidelines on expected
Role of key players → harmy
investment enviroment
- ④ Policy paralysis/uncertainty
as stated by Economic survey,
is present in space sector as
well.
- ⑤ Lack of entreprenurship in this sector
eg. spaceX by Elon musk - India
doesn't have a spaceX equivalent
apart from reliance starting its
ventures recently.
- ⑥ Regulatory cholesteral
Harming speed of clearances
Ease of doing business & investment

Suggestions for greater participation

① Institutionalised Mechanism

es. NSIL formed in recent
(New space india Ltd) &
Antariksh

② Clear division of roles & avoiding multiplicity of roles to create accountability in organisational level.

③ Tax benefits/incentives to invest in R&D, manufacturing & support of space sector

④ WTO permitted benefits to local players to ensure 'Make in India' is stood by in letter & spirit.

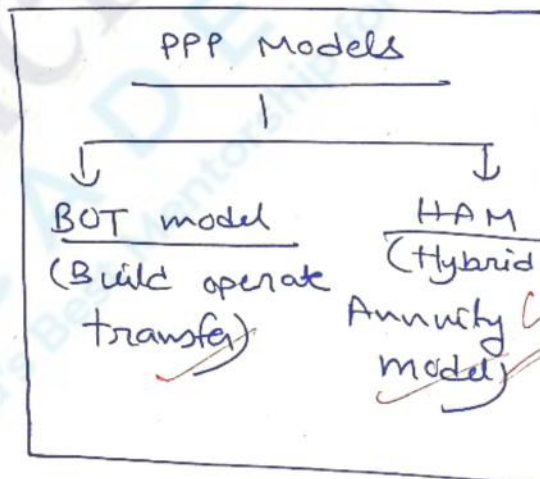
Thus, ~~clear~~ creation of proper
accountable organisational structures
& ~~endusive~~ support to investment &
business environment will help boost
private participation in space sector.

12. Why is Public Private Partnership (PPP) required in infrastructural projects? Examine the role of PPP model in the redevelopment of Railway Stations in India. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Public Private Partnership (PPP) is the new focus of investment in long gestational infrastructural focus projects.

Requirement of PPP model

① Government cannot be the only investor to ensure faster economic growth



② Trade off by government between social sector initiatives and developmental measures

eg ~~revenue~~ revenue is capital expenditure

③ Private investment brings different views, work culture, proficiency in the system.

④ Avoidance of Regulatory enticement to some extent.

⑤ crowding out of private players does not happen in PPP models. Thus helping the overall economy.

Role of PPP model in redevelopment of Railway stations in India

Multiple railway stations & ^{airports} have been handed over to private players in either BOT or HAM models recently, causing —

- ① Better service to customers
- ② Bringing specific ~~sp~~ service sector

expertise to the sector.

- ③ separate role of private players in building & services in the railways.
- ④ Encourages competition & better services → transformation from service based to entitlement based

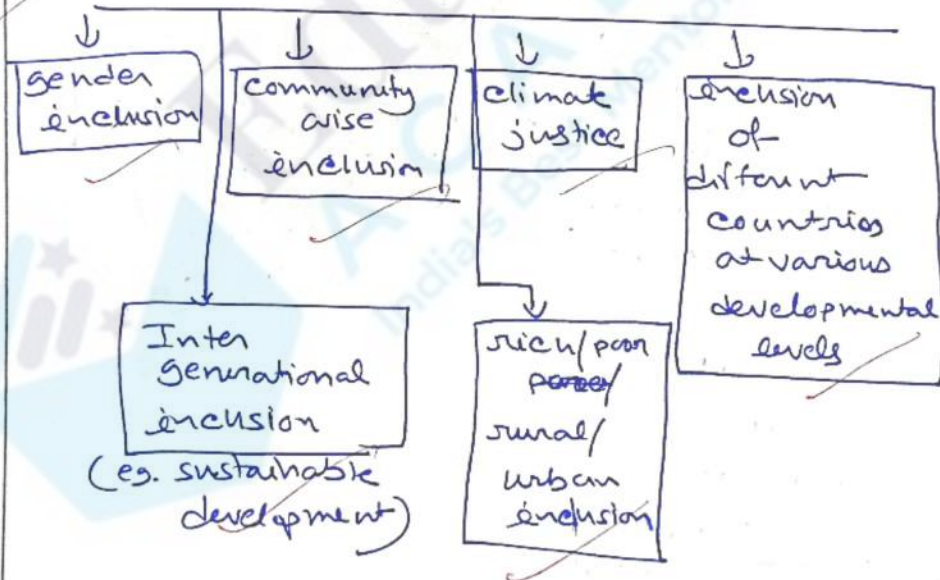


13. Is inclusive growth possible under market economy? State the significance of financial inclusion in achieving economic growth in India. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Inclusive growth as a concept evolved in the 1990s and has now become the basis of governance structure in all welfare states.

Inclusive growth : Aspects of inclusion

Good



Is inclusive growth possible in market economy?

yes

Not really

① → growth that is not inclusive does not last long.

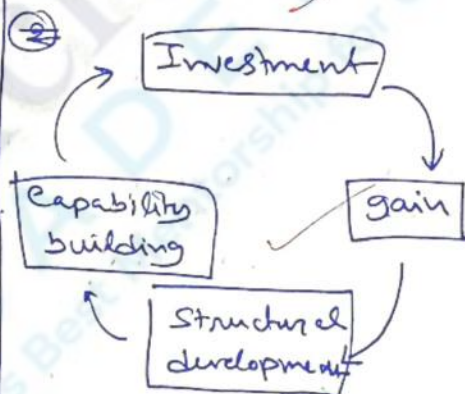
② (non inclusive growth → Reduced purchasing power of people)

↓
lack of demand in market

↓
recession

↓
harm to growth of market economy

① → inclusivity of all sectors hampers rise of economy (eg. social sector expenditures)



Hence, inclusive growth is not only possible in market economy but also desirable and necessary for

sustainability of market economy.

significance of financial inclusion
for economic growth

① Encourages agency of people

- decision making power to people
to on expenditure → Boosts
Demand

② Boosts banking system - one improves
credit worthiness of public by
→ boost in customer base

(eg. JAM Trinity, PSL sector, KCC)

③ Social cohesion → ensures ease of
doing business

④ Dignity to people → eg PM-MUDRA,
STAND UP India, PM-SVANidhi

boosted dignity & economic growth

⑤ sustainable growth

Being a welfare state, inclusive
development is the basic tenet of
governance in India

14. What are the major challenges of Public Distribution System (PDS) in India? How can it be made effective and transparent? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Public distribution system or public rationing system is the biggest food security scheme all over the world. Almost 60% of Indian population is benefited by the same.

Major challenges in PDS

① collection level →

1.1 → Asymmetric weightage to wheat & rice

1.2 → encourages mono cropping → harming soil fertility.

② transport & storage level →

2.1 → huge transport cost borne by government

2.2 lack of storage infrastructure causes rotting of grains at Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns.

③ Economy →

3.1 → hampers market by ~~less~~ stopping
market led price discovery leading
to MSP led price discovery.

3.2 → food subsidy → 1.45 lakh crore

④ Implementation level

4.1 - 'ghost beneficiaries' → leakages

4.2 - ~~use~~ lack in coverage → CACR
(2016) report → only 70% of the
needy covered → need of wider
coverage

4.3 exclusion errors

Good Points

Ways to make effective & transparent

① Effectiveness

1) consider recommendation of
Shanta Kumar Committee

2) decentralisation (hub & spoke)
model of food grain storage

3) focus on nutritional security
(eg. millets to be included)

④ schemes like price deficiency payment scheme can reduce storage & handling cost by FCI

⑤ Economic survey suggested similar thing → free food grains of below 20% beneficiaries & market price support to rest

③ Transparency

① Digitisation of food grain collection, transport, allocation

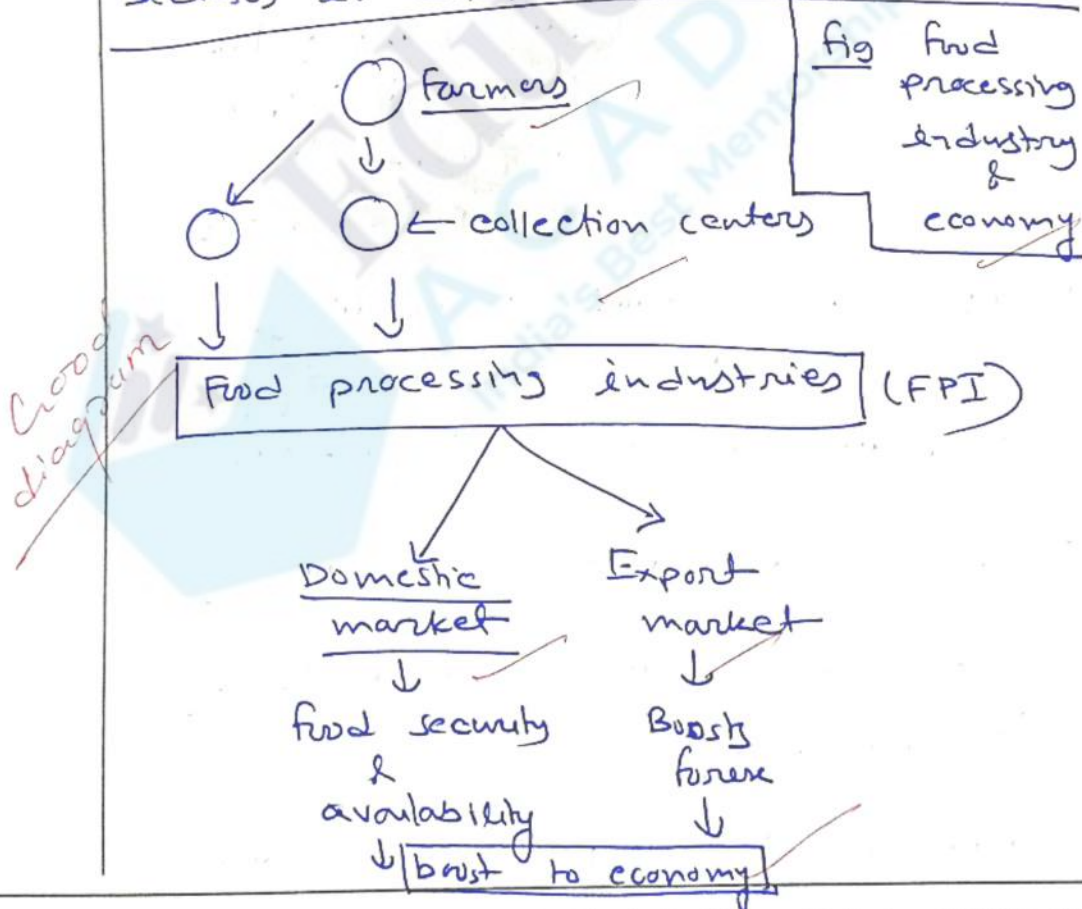
② Aadhar enabled uptake systems can reduce leakages

③ inclusion of social audit by communities, civil society organisations (CSOs)

PDS is India's biggest step towards SA SDG goal 1 & 2
zero poverty & hunger & stand above steps can make it more effective in true sense.

15. Elaborate the scope and significance of the food processing industry in India. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

India is at a historical high at food grain productions at 315 MMT, However only 145 MMT storage capacity is available - ensuring ~~low~~ Availability, Affordability & acceptibility of food grains need enhance the need of food processing sectors in India.



Scope of food processing sector in

India:

- ① Population → growth in demand
^{Huge}
- ② changed lifestyle → need for ^{easy} ready to
(working partners) cook items
(need for processed items)
- ③ Boost in infrastructure → Smartwala,
sugarmela, coastal
infrastructure, KISAN
Rail, Krishi UDAN
etc helps food
processing industry
- ④ plus & play facilities at Multi-
modal food parks → boosts EODB,
competitiveness & customer services
- ⑤ Local communities get benefited
- ⑥ Boost in export led agriculture
food production
- ⑦ India is topmost producer of milk

guava, mango and second in many fruits and vegetables → ensuring ample supply to FPIs.



Significance of FPIs

- ① Boost to local economy
- ② support to 'local for vocal' *wood* concept
- ③ Ensures nutritional security of country
- ④ Exports of products → food & processed food export touched historical high in 2021.

Supporting steps by government

- MPEPA, APEDA
- Single window clearance & export support to FPIs
- Access to formal credit
- ↳ New initiatives for FPIs.

Thus, food processing sector is evolving as an eminent player in local economies across the country.

16. The increase in life expectancy in the country has led to newer health challenges in the community. What are those challenges and what steps need to be taken to meet them? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

UN population report has proved that India has surpassed China in population. This has two reasons — increase in life expectancy and decline in crude death rates.

Newer health challenges to India
Due to increased life expectancy

- ① Need for silver economy (eg. old age focused economy).
- ② Geriatrics as a new health ~~base~~ challenge/scope — based on use of the opportunity.
- ③ Issue of availing reproductive choices to common people
- ④ gender ~~div~~ divide in contraceptive choices (82% female vs 18% male access contraception)

⑤ Need to focus on below-5 child care (reason for poor performance of India in various global indexes. eg Global Hunger Index)

⑥ Burden of health care system (especially secondary & tertiary)

⑦ Lack of enough Patient: Doctor

⑧ Feminization/realisation of old age - lack of healthcare to these areas.

Steps to be taken to meet newly emerging health challenges -

① Focus on primary health care

② This reduces undue pressure on secondary & tertiary health care systems.

③ Effective use of Anganwadi/ASHA/~~and~~ Nurses & midwives in primary groundlevel health care.

④ focus on WASH (Water, sanitation, hygiene) systems to reduce disease burden.

⑤ preparedness for impending boom in geriatrics → R&D, training resource build up

⑥ protective healthcare over curative healthcare

⑦ Inclusion of traditional knowledge systems → AYUSH to improve health coverage

⑧ focus on APIs - generic medicines to make healthcare affordable for all

⑨ universal health coverage eg. PM-Jan Arogya Yojana

⑩ Insurance awareness

Newer challenges need newer strategies

with the above steps India will definitely ~~make~~ ^{overcome} the challenges & thrive.

conclusion could be better

17. Economic growth in the recent past has been led by increase in labour activity." Explain this statement. Suggest the growth pattern that will lead to creation of more jobs without compromising labour productivity. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

India is currently the 3rd largest economy in Purchasing power and 5th largest in absolute terms, leaving behind its former coloniser Britain, at 6th place.

Increase in labour activity

① State interventions →

eg) MANREGA

② skilling, reskilling - upskilling →

eg) PM-KAS KAUSHAL VIKASH Yojana, skill India,

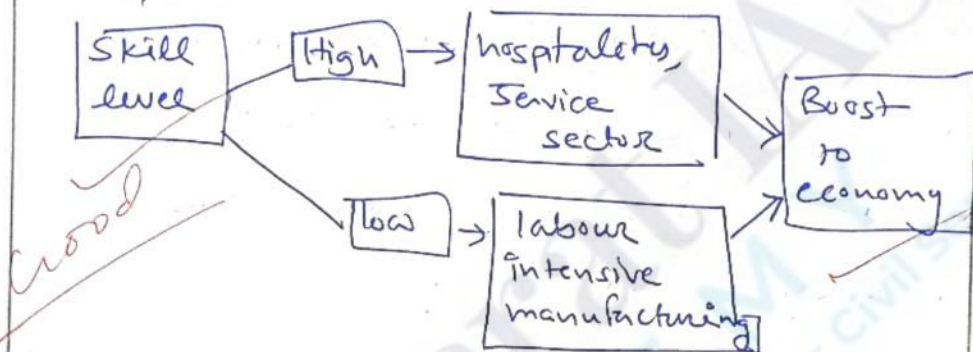
③ multiple entry-exit & skill recognition schemes

④ focus on 'Make in India'

⑤ focus on production by schemes

like Production linked incentive (PLI) scheme

⑥ Section specific growth plans



⑦ Institutionalised support to skilling

easy access to loans

eg PM-Mudra

Stand up India scheme.

Suggested growth pattern that will bring growth without compromise in productivity

① Accurate mapping of resources
(eg - portal for skill mapping during covid pandemic reverse migration)

- ② Accurate skill database for resource mapping
- ③ Sector specific intervention - Agriculture sector with only 18% GDP contribution engages 46% people.
- ④ Problem of missed sector leaping in India (growth from Agri to service sector) needs to be checked.
- ⑤ focus on labour intensive make in India initiatives
- ⑥ Boost to MSMEs - as they have huge employment generation capabilities
- ⑦ problem of missing middle (dwarfism in companies) need to be handled → incentives to grow.
- ⑧ Export oriented sectors need special attention (es. SEZs PM-DESH scheme)
These will help boost productivity & economic growth.

18. Do you think India will meet 50 percent of its energy needs from renewable energy by 2030? Justify your answer. How will the shift of subsidies from fossil fuels to renewables help achieve the above objective? Explain (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Honble PM declared India's Panch-Pran to the world in glasgow summit which includes meeting 50% of its energy needs from renewable energy by 2030.

India's chances to meet the goal →

Efforts by government:

- ① focus on renewable energy initiatives
- ② redefining renewables (eg. large hydropower included in renewables)
- ③ focus on behavioural change —
eg Life initiative
- ④ grassroot level changes —
green cooking gas to households

④ - PM Ujjwal → leading to women health benefits

⑤ focus on each sector

eg) Gobardhan scheme,
KUSUM scheme

⑥ Global Institutions led by India

eg) CDRI, International solar alliance

⑦ India's push for one sun, one grid, one world

⑧ focus on semiconductor, solar panel manufacturing

⑨ focus on mass transport than private transport

⑩ Green hydrogen mission - focus on Electric vehicles (eg. FAME mission)

⑪ focus on new atomic energy & other clean energy storage initiatives

with the given government efforts
India is on the right path to reach

50% renewables by 2030 & ~~net~~ ^{Net} zero emissions by 2070. If Not achieved by these limits also, India will ~~soon~~ achieve the targets soon after.

Shift from subsidies to fossil fuel to renewables



Thus, with the given ~~at~~ efforts India will surely meet its targets and also meet SDG goal of clean energy.

19. What are the main bottlenecks in upstream and downstream process of marketing of agricultural products in India? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Indian Agriculture is ^{one of} the largest employers with 46% depending on Agriculture inspite of only 18% contribution to GDP.

① Upstream bottlenecks in marketing of agricultural products →

- ① high cost of storage, transportation
- ② APMC markets, mandis have plethora of issues like middlemen
- ③ focus on MSP based food grain production → move from coarse grains to rice & wheat based systems.
- ④ irregular supply due to cobweb phenomenon

⑤ policy paralysis (as suggested by Eco. survey) leading to big firms not venturing into infrastructure creation
eg. ECA rules.

⑥ Inflation in inputs → eg. due to global shocks like Russia-Ukraine war

⑦ huge dependency of rainfed agriculture leads to fluctuation in production

Downstream issues in Agri-produce marketing

[Export oriented: International Market]

① lack of branding for Indian products

② Narrow base of exportable product (less variety)

③ focus on all items to export rather

than focusing on few items export with huge volume and create monopoly in global market.

④ SPS (sanitary phytosanitary measures) by WTO

⑤ Domestic market

① lack of awareness & incentive to domestic products.

② ~~Storage~~ & ~~tax~~ higher price of organic products → leads to aversion of buyer

③ competition with imported products.

→ focus on storage/transportation infra

Way forward → wider export base

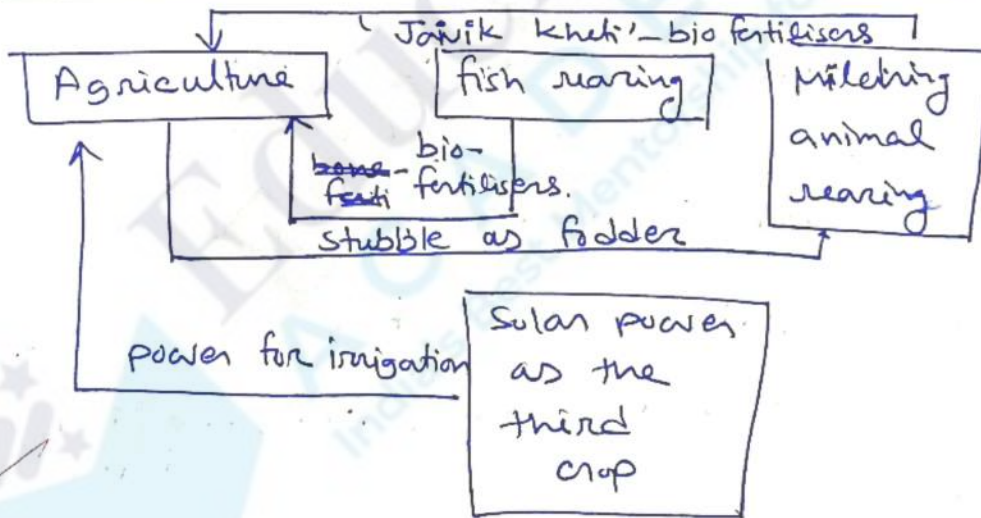
→ extension services

→ information dissemination

→ domestic awareness generation for domestic products — local for local

20. What is Integrated Farming System ? How is it helpful to small and marginal farmers in India? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Integrated farming system is rotational crop production, fish & animal rearing, usage of other sources of ~~some~~ income to agricultural family by using output from one section to input as other.



is Integrated farming system

Helpful for small & marginal farmers :-

① Small landholding → need of alternate farming eg. dairy farming which requires less space

② focus on organic fertilisers → reducing adverse effect on soil, water, environment

③ Solar power → (eg) KUSUM scheme

④ Animal rearing → (eg) empowerment to women (as this section is mostly feminized)

⑤ Doubling farmers income - by considering suggestions of Ashok Dalwai committee

⑥ Reduces dependency on single crop or agriculture only → Thus

reduces economic shock due to unfavourable price discovery.

⑦ Enhances scope of underutilised blue economy → has export scope as well.

⑧ Diversification of resources → reduces preda ~~to~~ employment over reliance on agriculture alone.

This implementation of Integrated family systems can significantly improve farmers income in Agricultural family (current monthly income only 10,000 per agricultural family)