

GENERAL STUDIES

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Q.No	Max.Marks	Marks Obtained		
1	10	05	1. Please write your Name, Email, UPSC Roll No. and Mobile number in the answer sheet	
2	10	04	2. There are 20 questions printed in English, all questions are compulsory	
3	10	04	3. The number of marks carried by a question or part is indicated against it.	
4	10	04	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	04	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	04		
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9	10	04	Any specific message from Educrat IAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy?	
10	10	05	Mentor's Remarks:	
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20	15	06	Mode of Examination:	Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
Total Marks		108	TEST CODE:	Medium of Examination:

1. Examine the development of religion, literature and fine arts under the Guptas. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

The Gupta age is called the Golden Age of Ancient India. It made profound developments in the field of religion, literature and fine arts.

Good introduction

Religion

- 1) The compilation and development of Purans occurred during this time.
- 2) Bhagvatism developed as a new form of worship — an avatar of Vishnu
- 3) Shudras were allowed to worship Krishna and listen to Puran recitation

— Emergence of Shakti cult in Eastern India.

Relevant points.

Literature

- 1) Navratnas under in the court of Chandragupta made profound developments

Good Points.

- in the field of literature
- 2) Sanskrit plays developed eg: Abhijanau-Shakuntalam by Kalidasa.
 - 3) Scientific works were also produced. eg: Aryabhatiyam by Aryabhatta - explained heliocentric theory, calculation of area of triangle etc.

Fine Arts

Good answer

- 1) Paintings developed under this age eg: Murals in Ajanta caves.
- 2) Construction of temples - rise of Nagara architecture eg: Kandariya Mahadev
- 3) Rise in sculpture making eg: panels in Ajanta
- 4) Issue of gold coins eg: Samudragupta playing veena religion led to rise in number

Drawbacks

of Chandellas / untouchables

Sati continued to be practised

- Eran inscription

Architecture did not achieve great heights

Nonetheless, Gupta period marked a dramatic phase of development in multiple areas.

2. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar made it possible to think of an end to, if not a beginning for, the profound inequities of caste in India. Comment. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar was instrumental in changing the caste based system of Indian society. It was due to his efforts that it was possible to conceive of an end to caste inequalities in India.

Good introduction.

Dr B R Ambedkar's efforts

1) Mobilising people to challenge caste inequalities like untouchability

eg: Mahad Satyagraha.

2) Organisational platform for continuous actions.

eg: Balishkrit Hitakami Sabha.

3) Awareness among people to challenge caste inequalities.

eg: Annihilation of Caste - book.

— use of word dalit in place of harijan.
— Instrumental in demand for separate electorate for depressed class.

4) Political representation to Dalits
eg: Poona Pact reserved seats
for Dalits.

5) Constitutional support to Dalit
equality. eg: Art 17 ^{Article 17} - Abolition of
untouchability

Issues { Untouchability practised in
many forms even today
Some criticise his efforts
by claiming that it led to
Hindu disunity.

Good
conclusion.

Dr B R Ambedkar paved
the way for ^{abolition of} caste inequality.
His actions has led to upliftment
of the subaltern groups in India.

3. Why did the industrial revolution first occur in England? Discuss the quality of life of the people there during industrialization. How does it compare with that in India at present? (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Industrial revolution took place during the early half of 19th century in England. It pointed to a growth in factories, mass productions and significant employment.

Good introduction

Reasons it occurred in England first:

- 1) Penetration of money economy - led to increase in wage labourers.
- 2) Enlightenment - allowed people to think rationally - focus on developing scientific ideas and machines.
- 3) Imperialism: colonies supplied England with cheap raw material and labour to further their industrial production.
- 4) Political systems: French Revolution etc had led to creation of commercial political leaders - interested in profits.

- Land
- Labour
- Capital
- Entrepreneurship
SMIP
↑
Try to organise your points on these factors of production

Quality of life of people in England during industrialisation:

- Inequalities
- Rise of Capitalism
- Rise of Imperialism
- For raw material (competition among companies)
- Consumerism

low wages, exploitative conditions in factories

Creation of slums due to overcrowded cities

Pollution increased due to industries

Positive aspects

- development of industrial class
- better services and goods available

Growth in child labour

Comparison with India at present:

Positive

- 1) India provided for social security benefits after industrialisation which was missing in England
- 2) Better working conditions in factories
- 3) More benefits to children and women
eg: Abolition of child labour

Negative

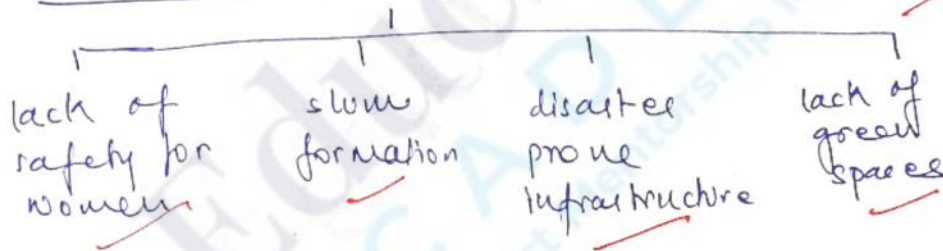
- 1) Slums and overcrowding are a problem in India as well
- 2) India has a few of the world's most polluted cities
- 3) Informalisation of work has increased 90% of the workers in unorganised sector.

Please conclude your answer

4. In view of the prevailing issues, discuss the need for reforming the urban infrastructure and mobility services in India through a gender lens. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

According to Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA), India's urban population is likely to increase to 40% by 2030.

The current urban areas face certain issues like:



In view of the above issues, there is a need to reform urban infrastructure and mobility services through a gender lens:

↳ Creating safe ~~was~~ spaces for women.
eg: More than 52% women declined educational and employment opportunities due to lack of safety.

Good introduction

Good mentioning of the issues.

Good point.

- Skill upgradation through training centres
- Educational Infrastructure with special emphasis on STEM
- 2) Creating universal infrastructure
eg: Supreme court has 9 universal restrooms for LGBTQIA+
 - 3) Special mobility services for women
eg: Shakti scheme of Karnataka - free bus rides to women.
 - 4) Reducing indoor pollution which mostly impact women.
eg: Ujjwala scheme - LPG for poor households
 - 5) Creating accessible services in urban areas
eg: for disabled population - ramp infrastructure.
 - 6) Affordable housing for single women
eg: Women's hostels.

It is important to revamp urban spaces in order to ensure gender equality. It will help in achieving the goal of inclusive development.



5. Unsafe abortions are a critical issue affecting the reproductive and maternal health of women in India. Identify the reasons behind the same and suggest remedial measures as well. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Unsafe abortions are those abortions done by women in a hidden manner, in unhygienic spaces and often without a registered medical practitioner's availability. It poses a grave threat to women's health.

Good
introduction

[Reasons for unsafe abortions]

1) Pre marital pregnancy: since it is a taboo in Indian society, women resort to unsafe abortions.

Good
points.

2) Patriarchy: out of wedlock pregnancies are seen as a blot on family's honour. Hence, unsafe abortions are chosen to be discreet.

Mention
MTP Act
and its
flaws.

3) Laws on abortions: laws dictate that abortions require consent of medical

Relevant points.

You can also mention about MHA to justify the criticality of situation.

practitioners which hinders young women on accessing safe abortions.

- 4) Availability of medicines eg: mifeprostone induces abortion but can pose a threat to health.
- 5) Lack of awareness among mothers on safe abortion practices.

Remedial measures to counter unsafe abortions

Good points.

Increasing awareness among young women on importance of safe abortion

Quality testing of medicines that induce abortion

Registering all abortion clinics in order to prevent such mishaps

Making law more accessible to patients eg: confidentiality of patient's identity

Attitudinal change: making unsafe abortions an option for young mothers.

Good conclusion.

Maternal health is one of the major agenda of National Health Policy. Unsafe abortions must be curbed in order to achieve the goal.

6. Regionalisation is the key to sustainable future in the globalised world. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

In an increasingly global world, where boundaries are becoming fluid and interconnections are increasing in all areas, sustainable future is a major goal.

Good introduction.

Regionalisation is seen as a key to sustainable future:

Regionalisation is the process of ensuring that demands and needs of smaller regions are kept in mind in a global world.

* Regionalisation leading to sustainable future:

↳ Each region can contribute to the global needs according to their capacity — eg: developed nations contribute more. (common but differentiated responsibilities)

- Area based approach
- use of traditional methods for sustainable consumption of resources

2) carrying capacity of a region is not breached eg: Maldives witnessing overtourism.

3) Every region is given help according to their needs eg: small pacific island nations helped by developed nations in fight of climate change

4) It leads to interdependent functioning - no overexploitation of resources.

Issues with regionalisation

it can foster exclusivity and discrimination towards minorities

it can lead to regionalism and create conflicts

it can cause a trend of deglobalisation eg: protectionist policies by nations

Good conclusion

Regionalisation may help with achieving sustainable development but it needs to be done while promoting the idea of a global world.



7. While globalisation is allegedly responsible for human rights violations, it allows human rights movements to counter its excesses and negative effects. Elaborate with relevant examples. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Globalisation is the phenomenon of increasing interconnectedness among nations in the social, economic and technological arena. It creates a nations without boundaries.

However, it has led to human rights violations:

- 1) Imperialism of vulnerable nations
eg: African nations used as a buffer state by developed countries
- 2) Electronic aggression: eg: cybercrimes
China's apps alleged spying of Indian citizens
- 3) Exploitation of workers: eg: factories in third world nations with minimum wages.

Food
introduction

You can also
use the example
of vaccine
trials.

1) Violating women's dignity eg: deepfakes.

However, it allows for human rights movements to counter these negative aspects as well:

1) Giving voice to subaltern groups
eg: global campaign against George Floyd case

Black lives matter movement.

2) Women empowerment eg: #MeToo

- Adidas exploitation of workers

3) Checking excess of tyrannical state

eg: UN Human Rights agency
challenging exploitation of Uighurs in China's Xinjiang

4) Expanding idea of human rights
eg: Fridays for Future: a global movement for healthy climate.

5) Countering global problems in a united manner eg: UN Convention on Terrorism

6) Ending violence in disturbed areas
eg: Peacekeeping forces.

Food conservation.

Globalisation while creating human rights issues, has also paved way for solutions and expansion of human rights.

8. Energy costs and government policies have a significant impact on the location of oil refineries, which in affect the global oil industry.
(Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

India is one of the largest importers of oil in the world. Oil is necessary for energy security of ~~our~~ ^{any} nation.

The location of oil refineries is impacted by energy costs and government policies.

Energy costs impacting location

1) Cost of mining decides location.

eg: on shore refineries cost lesser than off shore — preference for onshore.

2) Transportation is another factor that can impact energy costs.

eg: oil refineries near market — Bina oil refinery

3) ~~And~~ Technology used in mining can affect energy costs as well

Focus should be on Energy consumption by the oil refineries.

Government policy impacting oil refineries location

- 1) Licensing policy: government allows easy licensing now to encourage growth of oil refineries eg: HELP instead of NELP.
- 2) Approval of government eg: oil refineries not allowed in sensitive zones like Himalayas.
- 3) Schemes of government eg: subsidy on technology for oil mining equipments.
- 4) Investment by government will also impact location of refineries.

Good point.
- Transition to renewables.
- windfall tax.

The second part is unaddressed

The oil refineries location can impact global oil supply. Thus it needs to be carefully developed in order to ensure energy security in a world dependent on fossil fuels largely.

9. It's not just the geographical conditions that have led to recurring floods in Eastern India. Discuss and also suggest measures to tackle this menace. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Eastern India faces multiple cyclones and consequent floods. Geographical conditions is one of the many reasons that cause floods in this part.

Geographical conditions causing floods

3-4 cyclones
in Bay of Bengal
per year

presence of
large rivers
eg: Ganga,
Damodar etc

large
deltatic
region
causing
sedimentation
and floods.

Good
introduction.

Relevant
points.

Other factors causing floods in Eastern India

1) Lack of dredging of rivers
eg: Brahmaputra faces continuous
issue of siltation.

2) Urban Infrastructure is not flood
proof eg: reduction in mangrove

- Mismanagement of dams
- Diversion of rivers

- leaves which acted as a buffer for floods.
- 3) Climate change: Increasing temperature has led to rise in cyclones in Bay of Bengal region.
 - 4) Lack of political will: eg: Odisha faces floods every year but no flood policy developed yet.

- Proper management of dams
- Maintaining e-flow of rivers
- Area based approach for flood control.

Measures to deal with rising floods



India is more likely to face such disasters in future. A multi vector approach is needed in order to deal with these disasters.



10. Critically evaluate the various resources of the oceans which can be harnessed to meet the resource crisis in the world. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Oceans are a vast repository of natural resources. They contribute almost three-fourth of the Earth.

The harnessing of resources in oceans can solve resource crisis in the world

You can also mention about Deep ocean Mission.

1) Polymetallic nodules (PMN): they are rare nodules found in oceans that can have great energy capacity. eg. If India harnesses 10% of PMN, it can meet its energy needs for the next 100 years.

Relevant point.

2) Placer deposits: they are rich sources of minerals - gold, platinum etc.

3) Sulphur - it is rarely found in land but can be extracted from oceans eg: Gulf of Mexico. It can be useful in developing sulphur batteries etc.

- 4) Oil resources - to meet energy needs.
eg: Bombay High.
- 5) Corals: they serve as a medicine cabinet - providing solutions to various diseases.

Issues in harnessing these resources

Relevant
Points

- 1) Lack of technology to search the seabed.
- 2) Capital intensive: not feasible for developing nations.
- 3) Destruction of maritime environment
eg: corals being bleaching.
- 4) Increase in climate change eg:
oil harnessing in offshore areas releases greenhouse gases.

Way
Forward

develop collaborative approach
to mine resources

eg: India and South Korea
to mine PMN in Indian Ocean

Ensure protection of marine biodiversity eg: UN Ocean Conference

It is important to harness the resources below ocean for meeting energy needs but while promoting SDG 14 - life below water protection.

11. Discuss the scientific and technological developments in ancient India. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Ancient India showcased a rich culture along with scientific and technological development throughout its period.

Relevant
introduction.

Scientific and technological developments in ancient India

1) Harappan civilisation:

a) developed art of city planning, grid pattern of city (Knowledge of angles)

You can also mention about the remains of copper scale

b) Had scientific knowledge of mixing metals - mixing bronze culture. (Metalurgy)

2) Development of spoked wheel during vedic age - led to increase in transport.

3) Idea of herbs and medicines to cure diseases - Charak Samhita (Alternative cure system of modern times)

during rule of Kanishka.

4) Idea of glass making, steel industry etc during Kushan rule

Good Points

5) Gupta rule contributed to scientific development to a great extent

a) Aryabhata: area of triangle calculated, rotation of moon around the earth, heliocentric theory etc

b) Brihad Samhita: elaborated on theories of Aryabhata, focused on movement of Earth around Sun etc

c) Sushruta Samhita by Sushruta: contains documents about more than 120 surgeries including caesarean.

6) The idea of Pythagoras theorem was also propounded by an Indian thinker.

7) Growth in astronomy as well as

asthology eg: Horoscama from the term
horoscope.

8) Theory of atoms by Vaishishika

Rishi Kanad

1 Problems faced in ancient India

1) Loss of knowledge due to non
support of rulers

2) Decline in scientific thinking
among later rulers
eg: no major scientific work
under rule of Harsha

3) Non decipherment of Indus script
poses a problem to understand their
scientific developments.

Nonetheless, ancient India
gifted the world with multiple scientific
and technological developments which
continue to be used today. Like
Yoga, Ayurved. It is important
to preserve and propagate such
ideas.

Good
conclusion.

12. Examine the linkages between the nineteenth century's "Indian Renaissance" and the emergence of national identity. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Good
introduction

The 'Indian Renaissance' was a period of intellectual development characterised by rational thought which occurred in the 19th century. It marked a shift from religious ideas' invincibility to belief in rationality.

Indian Renaissance characterised

by leaders like

Raja Ram
Mohan Roy

Ishwar
Chandra
Vidyasagar

Swami
Vivekananda

Henry
Vivian
Derozio

Linkage of Indian Renaissance and emergence of national identity

If the thinkers propounded the idea of equality and thus moulded

everyone as belonging to one nation.

eg: Hem Gokhale fought against untouchability and gave hope of equality - everyone is same in India

Good
interesting
with the
question.

2) Allowed to see colonialists as an external enemy eg: Raja Ram Mohan Roy demanded labour reforms, aid to war etc from the Britishers - saw them as external to India's needs

3) Promoted harmony among various communities leading to feeling of national unity eg: Vivekananda saw India as a great motherland of both Hindutva and Islam

4) Some thinkers were successful in showing the true nature of British rule eg: Sadashai Naoroji in his Drain of wealth theory.

5) Women seen as equal citizens

- of the nation with basic rights.
- Very Good points* - eg: Ram Mohan Roy demanded Right to property for women, abolition of sati etc ✓
- 6) Influence of other nations led to development of national identities.
eg: Revolution of Naples ✓

Issues faced by Indian thinkers

Sometimes their ideas were too radical for masses to accept eg: Henry Derozio's ideas ✓

it led to national consciousness only among the upper class ✓

it was countered by revivalists eg: Dharma Sabha of Radhakanta Deb against Ram Mohan Roy ✓

Good conclusion However, the 19th century thinkers and reformers headed the era of Indian Renaissance and laid the foundation of national identity which was later on awobilised by freedom fighters, ✓

13. Enumerate the factors driving feminization in agriculture and discuss its effects. Also, state the ways in which women can be empowered in this regard. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

According to Pew Research Centre, most women employed in India are part of the agricultural workforce. This is known as feminization in agriculture whereby agriculture is now a female dominated occupation.

Good introduction

Factors driving feminization in agriculture

1) Migration by men: as men migrate to urban areas for employment, women fill the vacuum in agriculture in rural areas.

Relevant points.

2) Lack of employment opportunities: rural areas have very few employment options for women.

3) low literacy rate prevents women from occupying other positions and hence they shift to agriculture.

You missed to mention the effects of factors

knowledge: women already have knowledge about agricultural practices making it easier for them to take on agriculture.

effect of feminization of agriculture

Skewed migration pattern: while men move from rural to urban areas, women's migration is mostly from rural to rural areas, thus being confined with limited options.

- Economic Independence

- Boost to Livelihood Security

Formation of cooperatives: farmer's cooperatives have encouraged rural women to pursue agriculture eg: IFFCO.

- Disguised unemployment

Ways to empower women in this regard

up Diversification of occupation: women should be given other employment opportunities in rural areas.

eg: ASHA workers

2) Land ownership: since women are agriculturists, giving them land rights will allow security of income.

3) Skill development in order to empower them to take on other activities eg: Startup India

4) Schemes for women farmers for credit access, training etc

eg: Kisan Mahila Sashaktikaran Pariyojana.
 (Identified woman farmer)

5) Promoting private investment for value addition of agricultural products
eg: Amazon Saheli - collaboration w. with SHGs.

6) Providing insurance to female farmers.

While agriculture has allowed women to pursue economic independence, they should be encouraged to diversify their options for further growth.

Relevant conclusion.

14. Discuss the numerous challenges faced by Divyangjans, i.e. Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in India. Also, mention the legislative provisions for Divyangjans and the initiatives taken by the government to uplift this section of the society. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Good introduction with data.

Divyangjans or persons with disabilities (PwD) are the largest minorities. They make up almost 2% of the total population.

Challenges faced by PwD

Relevant points

- 1) Social exclusion: they face the stigma of being disabled.
- 2) Low educational opportunities
eg: disabled have a high rate of dropout. due to lack of opp. opportunities.
- 3) Lack of accessible infrastructure.
eg: many government buildings do not have ramp facilities.

- 4) Low labour force participation rate
eg: # PWD face employment barriers in private sector.
- 5) Mental health issues - most PWD undergo issues of anxiety etc due to stigmatisation and prospects of bleak future.
- 6) Low political representation - no reservation for PWD in political areas
- 7) Demerit discourse: eg: slurs hurled against PWD challenge their identity.
- 8) Lack of health expenditure by government leading to low palliative care

Legislative Provisions for PWD empowerment

- 1) National Disability Act: recognises the special needs of disabled - prevents their exploitation etc.

Rights to Person with Disability Act, 2016

2) Mental Healthcare Act: includes mentally disabled — provides care and treatment for them.

3) Reservation of 3% for PwD in government employment

(Reservation in Education)

Other initiatives for PwD

(Suganya Bhanu Abhiyan)

1) Accessible India campaign: for developing disabled accessible transport and environment.

- MANI APP (RBI)
- Seats in Public Transport for disabled.

2) Mynap: disabled friendly maps developed in Odisha.

3) Limbs scheme: for older disabled below poverty line population.

4) Manodarpan Initiative: for dealing with mental health issues including disabled.

India needs ^{way} to focus on empowering PwD in order to achieve the inclusive development goal of 'Saptarishi',

Good conclusion

15. As India transitions from a rural to an urban society, Tier 2 and 3 cities can become the driver of the country's economic growth. Discuss. Also, examine the key issues constraining the economic growth of these cities. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

India's urban population currently stands at 37%. India is facing the process of urbanisation and development of Tier 2 and 3 cities can help in achieving economic growth.

Good introduction.

Tier 2 and 3 cities development can drive India's economic growth

↳ Infrastructure development in these cities can lead to employment opportunities

eg: Keynes economics principle

a) They can act as a market for the growing goods and services.

Relevant points.

- Concentration of MSMEs
- Emergence of these cities
- Export oriented
- One Dist. one prod.

Short
absorbent

- It will lead to balanced regional development - all areas facing progress rather than islands of prosperity.
- 4) It can curb issue of overpopulation, crowding etc in Tier 1 cities - better quality of life for all.
- 5) Development of Tier 2 and 3 cities can lead to growth of education
eg: schools being developed in Tier 2 and 3 cities.
- 6) They can provide areas for development of factories, new services and consequent employment.

Issues faced by these cities

- 1) Lack of finances - as major resources are used by major metropolitans
- 2) Lack of political will to develop

these areas.

- 3) Low employment opportunities in these areas prevent further growth and investment.
- 4) Since infrastructure is not well developed, investments continue to be low as well.
- 5) These areas are trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty.

Inform workforce
of
Basic Amenities.



Extension of Social Security Schemes -
Incentivizing relocation from urban to Peri-urban areas.

government should develop infrastructure to attract investment.
give them autonomous sources of finance
i.e. Municipal Bonds
de-link them from needs of metropolitan while focusing on their needs.

Good Conclusion.

Tier 2 and 3 cities can serve both functions of accommodating increasing urban population and promoting economic growth. It should be promoted by the government.

16. Though the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme has given much-needed attention to gender discrimination, it has failed to yield desired results due to poor implementation and monitoring. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Good introduction.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme is an awareness scheme that aims to promote awareness for empowerment of girl child. It has two functions of

increasing child sex ratio.

promoting educational opportunities among young girls. (Gross Enrolment ratio)

Key Achievements of BBBP in dealing with gender discrimination

- 1) It has created awareness among parents on prohibition of sex selective abortions.
- 2) It has developed educational

opportunities for young girls.

eg: BBBP 2.0. expanding education opportunities till higher school among girls.

3) led to women empowerment by improving sex ratio (eg. in some parts of Haryana)

However, it has not yielded the desired results

1) More than 50% of the budget of BBBP was spent on advertising (CAG report)

2) Child sex ratio continues to be below the world average (in most of the parts of the country)

3) the number of 'missing girls' - a phenomenon of sex selective abortions are on the rise according to NCRB

A) Literacy rate among women (School dropout rate especially during COVID-19)

Fair
Points

continues to be low - 77% as compared to men's 86%.

- 5) It does not take into account new forms of education eg: online education and digital divide.
- 6) The feedback policy is not well implemented.
- 7) In silo approach: it deals only with three ministries - neglecting other areas of women empowerment.

Way
Forward

- budget should be audited - outcome budgeting
- synergy among various ministries needed.
- change scheme to deal with new realities eg: digital education

Good
Conclusion

BBBP has proven effective in curbing gender discrimination. While certain areas face issues, it ~~has~~ can be effectively changed to deal with them.

17. To bridge the gender gap and improve the future of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), a multi-stakeholder approach is required. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

In India, almost 49%

people involved in STEM are women. It can improve the future of women and bridge gender gap.

Source of Data?
Please verify.

Issues women face now

Pay not good
Lack of dedicated institutions for women.

literacy rate is low among women
eg: 77%.
literacy rate in India

Stereotype that women are not fit for hard sciences

lack of employment opportunities in STEM field.

STEM: a multi-stakeholder approach is needed to bridge the gender gap:

Relevant
Points

1) Government:

a) create education opportunities for women in STEM

eg: Cone scheme: all women's universities for STEM

b) Provide them with mentorship in dealing with in STEM areas.

2) Private sector:

a) hire women in STEM areas in order to bridge gender gap.

eg: KIRAN scheme

b) felicitate women who have achieved milestones in STEM. learning.

c) focus on femonomies: create a market for women benefiting from STEM knowledge.

3) Civil Society:

a) Create awareness among citizens about importance of STEM

education for women. Bring attitudinal
and behavioural changes through
~~cap~~ campaigns and role models.

4) International collaboration:

eg: India - Germany sponsoring
women in STEM through financial
support. *Better to mention
State's affirmative
action.*

5) Promoting reservation for women
in Research institutes of STEM to
counter the glass ceiling.

*Good
connection.*

Encouraging women in
STEM will promote both economic
development and women empowerment.

It will usher in a new era of
gender equality (*in line with SDG5*).

18. In India, the rate of growth of elderly population in 2011-21 was about three times the rate of growth of the general population. In this context, discuss why policies for the elderly are a crucial aspect for India's overall development. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

According to United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA), India's elderly population stands at about 5% of the total population. The growth of elderly population has been about three times than that of the general population.

Good introduction

Reasons for growth of elderly population

Birth Control / Population Control measures

Demographic ageing

Increasing life expectancy

Better health facilities

It is necessary to develop policies for elderly for even overall development of the country as:

1) Increasing population of elderly means they have to be looked after.

2) Policies need to be developed to reduce health expenditure by them.

eg: LIMBS scheme for assisted devices to older population. It will ensure a healthy population and reduced health burden on state.

3) Skill development among elderly can lead to promotion of silver economy.

4) Literacy among elder population can lead to increasing knowledge economy eg: Adult literacy campaign.

5) Pension policies can lead to savings and consequent investment.

— Dissemination of acquired knowledge.

Better emotional development of children.

— Care economy.

fair
points

- by them eg: Atal Pension Yojana
- 6) Care for elderly will lead to protecting their wisdom and knowledge
eg: creating old age homes in every city.
- 7) Policies for elderly can reduce the poverty rate in India as they contribute a significant portion of poor population.

Good
conclusion

While the elderly face issues of disease burden, economic dependence, low literacy etc, government policies can go a long way in overcoming these hurdles and fueling India's growth.

19. The de-oxygenation of oceans is one of the most detrimental effects of anthropogenic activities, however it is under-reported. Identify the factors behind it and mention its socio-economic and environmental implications. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Ocean deoxygenation is a process whereby the dissolved oxygen in water depletes to such low levels that it becomes impossible for species to survive. They are also called dead zones. For example - Gulf of Mexico is one of the largest dead zones / hypoxic zones in the world.

While these areas are increasing they are mostly under reported due to:

- 1) Lack of data availability.
- 2) Hiding impact of anthropogenic activities.

Good introduction with definition and example

Factors giving rise to hypoxic zones

- Marine transport (oil spillage)
- Inorganic effluents.
- 1) Climate change: warm water leads to lower oxygen dissolution
 - 2) Ocean acidification increases carbonic acid while reducing oxygen levels
 - 3) Algal blooms due to eutrophication
- they block sunlight penetration and consequent photosynthesis
 - 4) Oil spills - also cover the surface layer and prevent sunlight penetration. (Marine transport)
 - 5) Pollution: eg: thermal pollution increases water temperature thus reducing rate of oxygen dissolution.

Socio economic impacts of hypoxic zones and environmental impacts

Environmental impacts

- 1) Loss of biodiversity eg: loss of coral reefs of Australia due to temperature rise.
- 2) Loss of buffering capacity of CO₂ sequestration eg: algae could sequester carbon

few points.

Socio economic impact

- 1) Loss of livelihood eg: collapse of fishing
- 2) Decrease in trade and exports
eg: shrimp, fish aquaculture etc
- 3) Increase in poverty among coastal community.

Way Forward

Tackle climate change
- implement Paris Deal

Develop marine biodiversity hotspot protection program

Reduce pollution activities
eg: oil zipper bacteria for cleaning oil spill

Please conclude your answer.

20. Evaluate the role of deserts and their geographical features such as sand dunes and salt pans on the climate and ecosystem of the regions they occupy and their impact on human settlements and trade.
(Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Deserts are mostly located between 15-30° latitudes on the western margin of continents across the globe. Deserts form multiple features like sand dunes, salt pans etc which play an important role in the climate and ecosystem of the region they occupy.

Good introduction

1) Salt pans: allow mining of salt in the region
eg: Baer district of Rajasthan

2) Denudational process in deserts



leads to formation of oasis
which makes habitation possible

eg: Tilafellet oasis in Morocco

3) Sand dunes are depositional
features which can act as a
windrance to low winds.

4) Drying up of playa lakes of
deserts give rise to Ranns which
are good for salt extraction
eg: Rann of Kutch.

5) ~~It~~ Deserts witness growth of
xerophytic plants like cacti.
They act as a source of water
for humans. (Adding to Biodiversity)

Desert impact on humans and
trade:

↳ New clothing styles develop
eg: those of sahara in Africa.

Relevant
Points.

fair
points

- 2) They mostly focus on trade
eg: caravans as agriculture
and cattle rearing is not possible
- 3) New forms of habitations develop
to protect them from local
winds eg: double walls to
protect from sa simoony
- 4) Houari settlements are mostly
confined near oas's due to
water availability
- 5) Growth of palm trees led to
development of 'date' trade

Conclusion
is missing

You can mention about increasing
desertification and wood in conclusion.