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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 843)

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Medium Hindi/Eng.	English	Registration Number	26262
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INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
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5	12.5	
6	12.5	
7	12.5	
8	12.5	
9	12.5	
10	12.5	
11	12.5	
12	12.5	
13	12.5	
14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

- Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
- There are TWENTY questions printed in HINDI and ENGLISH. इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं तथा हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी दोनों में छपे हैं।
- All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
- 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. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

All the questions are compulsory and carry 12.5 marks each.

1. Discuss the need for adhering to the road map for fiscal consolidation by fixing the fiscal deficit. Has the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 served the purpose for which it was envisaged?

राजकोषीय घाटा के निर्धारण के माध्यम से राजकोषीय समेकन (कंमोलिडेशन) के लिए एक रोड मैप का पालन करने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए। क्या राजकोषीय उत्तरदायित्व एवं बजट प्रबंधन (एफ.आर.बी.एम) अधिनियम, 2003 ने अपनी परिकल्पना के उद्देश्य की पूर्ति की है?

Adhering to the road map for fiscal consolidation is important to maintain stability of the economy. Fiscal deficit fixation is one of the method for that consolidation. By fixing fiscal deficit - government would know its limit and would borrow accordingly. Fiscal policy affects - growth, inflation, investment, employment generation in an economy. If fiscal consolidation is not taken into account, Govt. has the ~~f~~ wish to spend more to gain popular support. This would increase deficit and debt of the future govt. and economy may get destabilised, inflation may rise and ~~see~~ the example

of this destabilisation can be seen in 1990 economic crisis, where the foreign reserves depleted to minimal levels.

Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 is the step taken by the Govt. to adhere to fiscal consolidation. Containing fiscal deficit to 3% and Revenue deficit to 0% with no borrowing from RBI, ~~are~~ major features of Act.

Govt. though tries to adhere to the principles of Act, but it has not been met strictly. Until 2008 it was seen that spending within the Act is possible, but 2008 economic slowdown again made Govt. to change the time limit for adherence. Further, it is never taken into account that what measures Govt. is taking

for its adherence. Though the positive
positive is mid-term review of
fiscal policy. The Act has importance
for economic stability.

74th finance commission provided
that there is no oversseeing mechanism
on central Govt. for FRBM Act. It
may be a step forward if such
mechanism is formed.

2. Public investment in railways has a multiplier effect for the larger economy. Elaborate. What factors have held back the railways despite having a separate budget and considerable resources? In this context, enumerate the relevant recommendations of Bibek Debroy committee?

रेलवे में किए गए सार्वजनिक निवेश का, वृहद् अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए गुणक (मल्टीप्लायर) प्रभाव होता है। विस्तार पूर्वक बताईए। अलग बजट और यथेष्ट संसाधनों के बावजूद कौन से कारकों ने रेलवे को पीछे रखा है? इस संदर्भ में, बिबेक देवराय समिति की प्रासंगिक अनुशंसाएं बताईए?

Public investment in railways has multiplier effect of about 5, with at least 3 times for backward and 2 times for forward linkage, as shown by Economic Survey, (2015-16).

The backward linkage provided by railways to connect the backward and poor areas of country can lead to growth of small industries in these areas, like food processing. Further, with forward linkages, market would be connected to these areas and easy transport creates its own ease of doing business. A number of industries grow along the railways line. As envisaged under Industrial Corridor along Dedicated freight Corridor. Environment friendly railways will help in sustainable growth.

Though, the multiplier effect is too high, still railways' ^{ratio is} ~~is~~ decreasing in freight transport. It is only at around 30%, when it should be around 70% for optimum transport management.

Major factors which have held back railways are.

- 1.) Low public investment - Investment in laying new lines and modernising railways has been very low.
- 2.) Congestion → low investment, less resources, congestion on lines and low carrying capacity - 760% of lines are working on 7100% capacity.
- 3.) Cross subsidisation with passenger fares has made freight rates high leading to decreasing freight transport.
- 4.) Low efficiency,

Bibek Debroy committee recommends for modernisation of railways -

- 1.) Railways should focus on core issues others can be privatised like schools, construction.
- 2.) Setting up of Railway tariff authority for setting up fares & laying level playing field for privat.
- 3.) Scrapping up of railway budget
- 4.) Decentralisation of power to divisions.
- 5.) Improvement in account methods towards accrual method
- 6.) Reorganisation of Railway Board. with time.

Railways have to be seen as transport system rather than popular measure to showcase government freebies.

3. "There is a myth that small firms create the most jobs in an economy. The fact is that small firms that grow big create the jobs". In context of the Indian economy what are the factors that prevent firms that start small from growing bigger. What progress has India made in this respect and what other measures are required?

"ऐसा मिथक है कि किसी अर्थव्यवस्था में छोटी फर्में सर्वाधिक रोजगार पैदा करती हैं। जबकि तथ्य यह है कि वही छोटी फर्में जो बड़ी फर्मों के रूप में विकसित होती हैं, रोजगार पैदा करती हैं। भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के संदर्भ में, छोटी फर्मों को बड़ी फर्मों के रूप में विकसित होने से रोकने वाले कारक कौन-से हैं? इस संदर्भ में भारत ने क्या प्रगति की है और कौन-से अन्य उपाय आवश्यक हैं?

Small and medium enterprises are second largest employer after agriculture.
So there is a feeling that small firms are creating most jobs. But the thing is that the firms have remained small that's why they are able to create these jobs otherwise the percentage would have been more.

Number of factors have made these firms to remain small-

① Lack of credit availability -

Because the owner is not able to invest, he is not able to grow his firm.

② Labour laws → Strict labour laws, e.g. an factor Act, if firm employees

more than 10 workers, it would have to follow laws acc. to factory Act. Similarly industrial disputes Act, do not allow ~~the~~ closing down of firm if labour is 7/100. These laws create hindrance, as instead of getting bigger and coming ^{under} ~~into~~ laws adherence, firms remain small.

3) Lack of technological improvement-

Most of the firms are lacking technology and innovation measures to grow.

4) Environmental laws.

5) Competition from multinationals,-

Firms feel better to make small products for bigger companies rather than competing with them. Like electronics goods are made only as ancillary industry in India.

"Make in India" and "Skill India" missions are the important step taken to focus on small industries need. MUDRA Bank to ~~provide~~

refinance credit giving institutions of small industries.

some states are changing labour laws like Rajasthan has done to help the growth of ^{small} industries.

Technology upgradation fund is being provided.

Startup India programme.

Further,

the need is to support these firms in terms of marketing, technology transfer, ease of doing business, single window clearance. India not only have to produce but also make, design, produce, and market products. This can be done through providing support to small industries.

4. Enumerate the reasons why problem of NPAs is more pronounced in the public sector banks as compared to the private sector. Discuss the implications of having high NPAs in an economy. Also list the measures which the government has taken in order to address them.

निजी क्षेत्र की तुलना में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों में एन.पी.ए. की समस्या अधिक गंभीर होने के कारण बताएं। किसी अर्थव्यवस्था में उच्च एन.पी.ए. के निहितार्थ पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इस समस्या से निपटने हेतु सरकार द्वारा उठाये गए कदमों को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

Public sector banks are facing the ~~for~~ problem of high NPAs. (Non-performing Assets) to the level of 5% of their ^{net worth} Capital. And the stressed assets are even to the level of 15%. Private sector banks though are also having NPAs but the problem is much bigger for public sector Banks. Reasons for the same can be -

- 1.) Public sector banks have the social responsibility, like priority sector lending where chances of recovery are less.
- 2.) Government interference in the banks leads to large number of loans being given to government chosen corporates which may not be worthy.

3.) It is seen that efficiency of PSBs is low and they do not apply enough mind in selection of debtors. The inefficiency rises because of lethargy and no competition feeling. Also, recapitalisation is always available for them.

High NPAs in the economy means banking sector is under stress.

It will not be able to lend anymore. Thus, further private investments would be low & growth and employment generation than definitely will be less.

→ Customers will loose faith in banking system and thus savings will be low.

This is leading to repression of banks on both sides, liability and assets.

→ International investors, FDI will also decrease seeing the instability of banks and thus economy.

Government has taken number of measures to address NPAs.

- 1.) Indradhanish plan was formulated, to increase Accountability, transparency, decrease Govt. control and increase efficiency.
- 2.) Setting up of Bank Board Bureau for selecting high officials.
- 3.) Passing Bankruptcy and Insolvency Bill, for fasttracking stressed assets.
- 4.) RBI's schemes like 5:25, SDRs, S4A, etc. for early recovery.
- 5.) ~~Cap~~ Recapitalisation of banks.
- 6.) Asset Reconstruction companies are to get Govt. funding.

Need is for more autonomy to banks and less Govt. interference to increase their efficiency and work with competition.

5. Mention the salient features of the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) proposed by the government to reinvigorate private investment in infrastructure sector. How is it an improvement over the EPC model?

अवसंरचना क्षेत्र में निजी निवेश को पुनर्जीवित करने हेतु सरकार द्वारा प्रस्तावित हाइब्रिड एन्युटी मॉडल (एच.ए.एम.) की मुख्य विशेषताओं का उल्लेख कीजिए। कैसे यह ई.पी.सी. मॉडल से बेहतर सुधार (इम्प्रूवमेंट) है?

Hybrid Annuity model proposed by Govt. is to reinvigorate investment in mainly ^{now} (Highways) by private sector. The salient features of HAM proposed are -

- 1.) Govt. will provide 40% of the funding of the project, thus private party need not put all money ~~to~~ take all risk.
- 2.) 80% of the clearances, environmental and land acquisition will be done by Govt. before project is taken by private party.
- 3.) Govt. will collect the revenue of the project, and will return the private money accordingly with time. Thus, private party will have assured returns.

~~Thus~~ The project envisages proper risk sharing and profit sharing b/w Govt. and private parties, Thus, the project may get better proposals and interest from private parties.

It is better than EPC model (Engineering, Procurement, Construction) as Govt. will provide 40% of the funding and clearances which were major roadblocks for private parties. ~~These~~ clearances was leading to delays in projects and thus reduction in profits.

The risk is being shared by Govt. and private parties both. Diversification of risk will lead to more efficiency as both parties would work to their best ~~of~~ level to decrease the risks.

HAM is showing success in Highways
this can be extended to other
infrastructure too.

6. Even within the multilateral format of WTO the FTA route has served India well. Comment. How can India effectively deal with the challenges posed by the new mega regional agreements such as TPP?

यहां तक कि डब्लू.टी.ओ. के बहुपक्षीय प्रारूप (multilateral format) के अंतर्गत भी भारत को एफ.टी.ए. मार्ग (FTA route) का अच्छा साथ मिला है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। भारत टी.पी.पी. जैसे नये मेगा क्षेत्रीय समझौतों द्वारा प्रस्तुत चुनौतियों से किस प्रकार प्रभावी ढंग से निपट सकता है?

World Trade Organisation provides ~~for~~ the forum for free & fair trade, thus want to make the world a free market, with least tariffs and taxes. India has gained being the member of WTO, as duties and tariffs on Indian exports got reduced in other countries and industries like pharmaceuticals, automobiles grew. Also, the service sector grew because of globalisation and WTO.

WTO also provides methods of safeguards like in Agriculture - special safeguard mechanisms, Peace clause, which have helped in protection of agriculture and food security.

India as developing country also gets its say better through WTO, as

there it gets support of other developing countries too.

Trade facilitation agreement in services proposed by India would further improve services. Thus to an extent WTO has given global forum for India to put forwards needs & demands, however there is need for free trade agreements as WTO is consensus driven and there are no. of issues where developing & developed countries do not agree like IPR issues, labour & environmental laws.

In this scenario no. of FTAs are increasing. Mega regional agreements like TPP provides for new challenges as India cannot become member because of the strict rules of IPR, labour and environment proposed in agreement. ~~Not~~ And remaining out of the TPP will

lead to trade diversion from the country, market will be reduced for exports and thus ^{would} effect the growth of economy.

To tackle this -

India need to -

- 1.) Sign other agreements like RLEP, FTAs with European union, Latin America etc.
- 2.) Improvement and efficiency in production of goods.
- 3.) Take the comparative advantage and produce goods according to that.
- 4.) Increase domestic demand and capacity.
- 5.) Work for WTO playing major role than mega FTAs like TPP.

7. Cashless economy is a global trend now. What are the challenges of achieving a cashless economy in the case of India? How can these challenges be overcome?

नकदीरहित (कैशलेस) अर्थव्यवस्था अब वैश्विक प्रवृत्ति बन गई है। भारत के प्रकरण में नकदीरहित अर्थव्यवस्था प्राप्त करने के समक्ष उत्पन्न होने वाली चुनौतियां क्या हैं? इन चुनौतियों का समाधान कैसे किया जा सकता है?

Cashless economy is required for reducing the chances of generation of black money, decreasing the capital required for handling money by bank, and making transactions easier, & safer, & faster.

However, there are number of challenges being faced in achieving cashless economy.

In India about 95% transactions by volume and 60% by value are done through cash, whereas in developed economies it is around 60% by volume & 20% by value. Major challenges faced to move towards cashless economy-

- (1) Lower penetration of Internet connection in the backward areas.

- 2.) Illiteracy and digital divide
 - 3.) Speed of connection is slow. still most of people use 2G connections.
 - 4.) Awareness about the benefits of cashless transaction.
 - 5.) Fear of being cheated by citizens
 - 6.) Efficiency is low in handling Internet transfers by banks.
 - 7.) E-commerce barriers by Govt.
 - 8.) Use of black money would not be possible, thus people to transact in cash like in real estate and capital money for education.
 - 9.) ~~Lower~~ spectrum allocation.
- To get the benefits of cashless economy, need is to -
- 1.) Increase Internet penetration in rural areas.
 - 2.) Improvement in speed.
 - 3.) Strict rules for online transactions like bill payments.

- 4.) Easier ^{and safe} gateway
- 5.) Literacy about need for cashless economy.
- 6.) Decreasing the taxes imposed on online payment rather some incentives can be given like cash backs.
- 7.) Controlling generation of black money.

Unified payment gateway, Payment banks, 100% FDI in e-commerce, are some of the measures taken which can help in cashless economy.

8. Abysmal level of formally skilled workers in Indian economy, as indicated by the Labour Bureau Report 2014, is a cause of concern. What are the factors responsible for such a scenario? Also, examine the measures taken by the government in recent years to address the relevant concerns.

श्रम ब्यूरो रिपोर्ट 2014 द्वारा यथा इंगित, भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में औपचारिक रूप से कुशल श्रमिकों का अति निम्न (Abysmal) स्तर, चिंता का कारण है। ऐसे परिदृश्य के लिए उत्तरदायी कारक कौन-से हैं? साथ ही, प्रासंगिक चिंताओं को दूर करने हेतु हाल के वर्षों में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों का परीक्षण कीजिए।

Labour report, 2014 shows that unemployment rate is about 4.9%. In the country because industrial demands cannot be met due to less skilled workers. Skilled workers in India are very low and only about 3 million are under apprenticeship which provide best way for skilling.

The factors responsible for such a scenario -

- 1) Lack of skilling culture in the country. Skilling ~~are~~^{is} considered to be lower than ^{higher} education. Thus, unemployment through higher education is accepted and not employment through skilling.
- 2) Lack of industrial-education linkage.

- 3.) Vocational training is not part of education system.
- 4.) Lack of certification for standardised skills.
- 5.) Industrial ~~com~~pathy towards apprenticeship.
- 6.) Lack of proper mechanism of skilling and assured employment.

This scenario may change because of the measures taken by Govt. for improving skills in country.

- 1.) National Skill Mission.
- 2.) separate ministry dedicated for skilling.
- 3.) National Skill & entrepreneurship policy
- 4.) Through these mission and policy Govt. has ~~put~~ laid down schemes—
 - 1.) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas yojana — which will provide for certification of skills and

around 8000 Rs for getting skilled.
It will take into account prior
learning experience. The scheme has
the vision of skilling 1 crore youth
in next 4 years.

2.) National Apprenticeship Yojana -
Easing Apprenticeship in industries
and helping for around 50% in
stipends.

3.) Deendyal Upadhaya Kaushal Vikas
Yojana - For skilling rural youth.

'Kaushal Bharat Kusal Bharat'
schemes like Nai Manzil, Udaan,
are envisaged for skilling minorities
and people of backward LWE areas.

9. In the 10 years of its existence MGNREGA has won laurels as well as attracted criticism. Comment. What changes are required for the scheme to be relevant in the current scenario.

अपने अस्तित्व के 10 वर्षों में मनरेगा ने ख्याति अर्जन के साथ ही आलोचनाएं भी झेली है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। वर्तमान परिदृश्य में योजना को प्रासंगिक बनाने के लिए कौन से परिवर्तनों की आवश्यकता है?

- 10 years of its existence MGNREGA has won laurels in the form that
- it is declared as largest programme in world for providing livelihood.
 - It has reduced rural migration, thus urban stress.
 - It has helped generating rural assets in the form of roads, ponds
 - Empowered women and SC, STs for assured employment.
 - Reduced poverty
 - Increased bargaining power of agricultural labourers.
 - A right based approach for giving livelihood is a way of empowering the citizenry and better participation.

MGNREGA has proved to be major game changer where it is being

followed in its true sense. Like in the villages of Rajasthan, it has helped to generate employment and reducing poverty & distress.

However, the scenario is not same in all states.

- 1.) Lot of siphoning of MGNREGA money has been seen. By providing list of fake beneficiaries.
- 2.) Number of employment days generated are less at about 45 days.
- 3.) It may have also affected availability of agricultural labour.
- 4.) States like Bihar & U.P which need it the most has benefited the least.
- 5.) No real asset creation is being done.
- 6.) Late money received by beneficiary.

The proposals were even that instead of doing the unnecessary work it would be better to transfer money directly.

However, seeing the climate change vulnerability and increasing rural stress it is necessary to improve and MGNREGA -

- 1.) Timely delivery of money, may be through DBT
- 2.) Awareness among citizens, and make Gram Sabha the sole decider of work.
- 3.) Social audits and management information system (Mis) can improve transparency.
- 4.) Gram Panchayat to be empowered to know the needs and provide for work.
- 5.) Digitisation of records and move towards asset creation for like water harvesting methods.

10. Power sector reforms, crucial as they are, have remained elusive. Discuss the reasons for their failure. How far can the UDAY scheme address the issues concerning DISCOMS and improve the entire power sector value chain?

बिजली क्षेत्र में सुधार अत्यधिक महत्वपूर्ण होने के बावजूद दुष्प्राप्य बने हुए हैं। इनकी विफलता के कारणों पर चर्चा कीजिए। उदय (UDAY) योजना डिस्कॉम (DISCOMS) से संबंधित समस्याओं को किस सीमा तक समाधान कर सकती है और समस्त विद्युत क्षेत्रक मूल्य श्रृंखला (power sector value chain) में कैसे सुधार ला सकती है?

Discoms are distribution companies of power. They are very crucial in power supply chain, as around 30-40% power is lost during distribution only. They are crucial for efficient charges for power from customers.

However, Discoms always remains under huge debt and results in inefficiency and loss of power. The reasons for their failure may be

- Lack of capacity to get power charges from customers.
- Distribution lines losses -
- Lack of efficiency and credit

upward Discoms Assurance yojana is a way forward in improving the issues of DISCOMS. According to VDAY → states would take over the debts of DISCOMS and would issue bonds for these debts. This will help DISCOMS in credit availability and improving their efficiency.

→ Improvement in supply chain would be done through better availability of power.

- Scheme would also help in improving power sector value chain as -

- Improvement in distribution through DISCOMS.

- better supply of power

- Distribution and Transfer Lines would be overhauled to make them SMART. smart metering and better charges

from customers.

It will help in reducing power
losses and generate efficient power.

11. Market volatility and vulnerability to weather are the major issues facing Indian agriculture. Elaborate. In this regard, critically examine the importance of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana vis-a-vis earlier insurance schemes in addressing the problems of Indian agriculture.

बाजार की अस्थिरता और मौसम के प्रति सुभेद्यता (vulnerability to weather) भारतीय कृषि के समक्ष बड़ी समस्याएं हैं। वर्णन कीजिए। इस संबंध में भारतीय कृषि की समस्याओं का समाधान करने के संदर्भ में पूर्व की बीमा योजनाओं की तुलना में प्रधानमंत्री फसल बीमा योजना के महत्व का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

Market volatility and vulnerability to weather are major issues for Indian agriculture, leading to growth only of about 1%.

Market volatility →

→ Information asymmetry in market leads to lower profits for farmers and higher price for consumers.

→ Farmers do not sow according to market needs leading to bumper crop in one season and stress in another.

→ Changing market, leads to farmer making guesses and lesser outputs.

vulnerability to weather →

- 1) No safeguard against changing weather → 60% of agriculture is rainfed. When such large land has low irrigation, a little

drought~~s~~ creates havoc.
 changing climate change ~~has~~ ^{is} leading to
 extremes of climate - drought and
 floods - Vidharba and Bundelkhand
 are the examples of agricultural
 vulnerability to droughts,
 floods in Assam and Eastern India
~~are~~ other examples.

weather stress also leads to low
 productivity as shown in wheat.

Thus, agriculture is vulnerable to
 weather and it is leading to
 farmer distress and suicide.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima yojana
 is a significant step taken for ~~this~~
 reducing this vulnerability. (PMFBY)

It is a improved version over
 MNAS and WBIS, as -

- 1) 2% ^{annual} insurance rate for Kharif,
 1.5% for Rabi and 5% of commercial
 crop is given in PMFBY, which
 was larger in MNAS.

- 2.) Whole of premium would be subsidised by govt. Even if it rises to 90% before it was borne by farmer.
- 3.) PMFBY vision to increase insurance upto 50%. / at present it is only about 25%.
- 4.) late recovery of money was the feature prevalent which will be gone away with PMFBY.
- 5.) Use of technology to see the ^{measured} loss of crop will be done like drone, remote sensing, previously this was not feature.
- 6.) Local calamities like hailstorms, heat waves will be taken into account, ^{which were} not part of WBIS.
- 7.) Post-harvest losses will also be the part of PMFBY.

Thus, a improvement over NAIS & WBIS will reduce weather ~~and~~ ~~the~~ vulnerability.

12. The Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP) is a step forward from the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Compare the two policies and elaborate how HELP can encourage investment in the hydrocarbon sector as well as curtail India's export dependence?

हाइड्रोकार्बन एक्सप्लोरेशन (अन्वेषण) लाइसेंसिंग पॉलिसी (नीति) [HELP], न्यू एक्सप्लोरेशन लाइसेंसिंग पॉलिसी (NELP) से एक कदम आगे है। दोनों नीतियों की तुलना कीजिए और वर्णन कीजिए कि हाइड्रोकार्बन क्षेत्र में निवेश को प्रोत्साहित करने के साथ ही आयात पर भारत की निर्भरता कम करने में HELP किस प्रकार सहायता प्रदान सकता है?

HELP Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing policy can help in increasing hydrocarbon production, and investment by private sector. It is improvement over NELP-

HELP

1.) Revenue sharing model

Government oversight and auditing whether private party has shared profits will reduce as revenues will be definite for govt. once ~~for~~ sale starts thus private party could explore without fear of auditing.

2.) open acreage policy

NELP

Production sharing model

Government decided auction timings

Private party could any time ask for exploration and thus better

and more exploration.

3) uniform licensing
policy

one-hydrocarbon
one-licence

If the site contains more than one hydrocarbon, the private party would have right to explore all, thus increasing the potentials of exploration.

4) Right of marketing price to the private sector for natural gas & oil
in HELP

5) Differential rates of royalty charges according to depths of the hydrocarbon, deeper depth would have lower charges, which was not so in NELP.

Thus, seeing the improved ways of auctioning in HELP provides that Private sector would have more opportunities and less oversight by Govt. in exploring hydrocarbons. If the hydrocarbons are produced more domestically like impetus

would be there for coal bed methane, gas hydrates and efficiency in production. This will lead to reduced imports and curtail export dependence.

However, concerns are there that when in cost recovery is not allowed in revenue sharing model ~~then~~ private parties may invest less. Further, uniform rate for all areas may reduce ~~the~~ interest in North eastern states. If these concerns are also taken into account NEIP can prove to be game changer.

13. Although equal land ownership rights are essential for the economic empowerment of women, these rights are often overlooked. Discuss. What steps have been taken by the government to ensure land rights for women?

यद्यपि समान भूमि स्वामित्व अधिकार महिलाओं के आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण के लिए आवश्यक हैं परन्तु इन अधिकारों की प्रायः अनदेखी की जाती रही है। चर्चा कीजिए। महिलाओं के लिए भूमि अधिकार सुनिश्चित करने हेतु सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

Land ownership rights are not given due importance for economic empowerment of women. Land rights are the most important reason that women in villages are treated as second grade citizens. They cannot ask for credit, they cannot be independent and thus cannot prove their importance. Even, in the scenario when the feminisation of agriculture is increasing.

Similarly, urban land are major property of people, women having no power over it, she is often thrown out of home. If she had rights over land, then she

equally claim the house.

These rights are often not taken into account when empowerment is being envisaged. Women cannot get empowered socially or politically unless they have financial empowerment and land ownership is important for empowering women financially.

Measures taken -

- Hindu Rights gives the rights to women over father's property. However, this is not usually adhered to because of lack of awareness.
- Husband property - Land after death provides equal share of wife in it.
- (~~the~~ Land reforms needs to be done to provide land ownership in name of women.)

→ Homes built through IAY and
home housing for all would
be female's name.

- The need is for awareness and
empowering women to claim for
their rights.

14. Micro irrigation methods would not only lead to increased productivity but also conservation of water. Enumerating the different methods of micro irrigation, identify the bottlenecks in their implementation and benefits that can accrue once they are implemented.

सूक्ष्म सिंचाई पद्धतियों से न केवल उत्पादकता बढ़ेगी बल्कि जल संरक्षण भी होगा। सूक्ष्म सिंचाई की विभिन्न पद्धतियों को गिनाते हुए उनके कार्यान्वयन में आने वाली बाधाओं एवं उनके कार्यान्वयन से प्राप्त हो सकने वाले लाभों की पहचान कीजिए।

Micro-irrigation is need of the hour when 60% of agriculture is irrigated. The efficiency of present irrigation system is only around 30-40%, and micro-irrigation can improve this efficiency by about 40%. Also, the increasing droughts & desertification require micro-irrigation.

Different methods of micro-irrigation -

- 1.) Sprinkler irrigation → In this method water is provided to the plants precisely by way of sprinklers. i.e. water in the form of sprinkles comes out of pipes laid down on fields and irrigate directly.
- 2.) Drip irrigation → water is provided precisely to the roots of plants through droplets going directly to plants roots.

Bottlenecks in their implementation-

- 1.) costlier method of initial implementation. Farmers being poor cannot invest so much in one go in irrigation system.
- 2.) Lack of awareness and support.
- 3.) Easier subsidised methods of flooding like tube wells,
- 4.) cultivation of rice & sugarcane would not be possible through micro-irrigation.
- 5.) Lack of technological development for micro-irrigation use.

These bottlenecks need to be tackled in order to accrue the benefits of micro-irrigation -

- ① Precision farming - thus more efficiency, Reduction in soil erosion, water
- ② ~~No~~ loss of water through evaporation.
- 3.) Help dealing of irrigation in

dryland areas. Thus, reducing regional disparity.

4.) Better for small landholdings and protected agriculture.

5.) Reduce vulnerability to climate change.

6.) Ground water & rain water harvesting.

Badhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana - has a vision for

'Per drop more crop' - this

can prove to be major step in increasing micro irrigation system.

Sustainable agriculture is possible only through micro irrigation.

15. It has been argued that the Nutrient based subsidy (NBS) scheme launched in 2010 has created more problems than it intended to solve. Examine. What measures are required to address concerns arising out of the fertilizer subsidy policy in India?

ऐसी दलीलें दी जाती रहीं हैं कि वर्ष 2010 में आरंभ की गई पोषक तत्व आधारित सब्सिडी (एन.बी.एस.) योजना ने समस्याओं के समाधान के बजाए कहीं अधिक समस्याएँ उत्पन्न की हैं। परीक्षण कीजिए। भारत में उर्वरक सब्सिडी नीति से उत्पन्न चिन्ताओं का समाधान करने के लिए क्या उपाय किए जाने की आवश्यकता है?

Nutrient based subsidy is the subsidy provided for fertilisers like potash and potassium. Subsidy will be provided according to the nutrient content of fertiliser. This was thought as a measure to reduce subsidy and improve the ^{fertiliser} needs of farmers as per requirements. However, there rose some concerns in the scheme, as deciding different subsidies for different contents is a difficult process and this led to various problems. The price of the fertilisers increased and farmers reduced their usage. As the scheme is not for urea

based fertiliser, its demand increased. And the result is that when the requirement is NPK in ratio 4:2:1 — it has rose to ^{about} ~9:2:1. Thus, increasing leaching of nitrogen to ground water, soil degradation and eutrophication.

The need is for equality in fertiliser subsidy in urea with other nutrients. Major problem is in urea subsidy, it has created ~~back~~ diversion of urea for industrial use, to other countries like Nepal, and overuse.

- Neem coated urea.
- Stopping cartelisation of imports in urea.
- Increasing efficiency of firms in producing fertilisers.
- Going for DBT in fertiliser subsidy.

- Soil health card scheme could provide proper requirements of soil and subsidy can be provided according to the needs for various fertilisers.

16. The success of "Operation Flood" proves that thoughtful intervention in the livestock sector has the potential of acting as a growth engine for the agriculture sector and rural economy. In light of this, examine the potential of the livestock sector and the challenges it faces. Also enumerate the steps taken by the government in recent years to leverage the potential of this sector.

"ऑपरेशन फ्लड" की सफलता से सिद्ध होता है कि पशुधन क्षेत्र (लाइवस्टॉक सेक्टर) के लिए उठाए जाने वाले विचारशील कदमों में कृषि क्षेत्र एवं ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था हेतु विकास इंजन के रूप में कार्य करने की क्षमता है। इस तथ्य के आलोक में, पशुधन क्षेत्र की क्षमताओं एवं उसके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए। साथ ही, सरकार द्वारा हाल के वर्षों में इस क्षेत्र की क्षमता का लाभ प्राप्त करने हेतु उठाए गए कदमों को गिनाइए।

India is largest producer of milk in the world. Per capita consumption of milk has increased to about 308 gm/day. This is possible because of 'operation flood's' initiatives of cooperatisation of milk industry and supply chain management.

1) The livestock sector has huge potential in increasing agricultural growth and improving regional disparity 2) The livestock sector grew 75% when agriculture growth was 1%. It contributes about 15% to agricultural GDP.

3) Livestock are more egalitarian than ~~small~~ landholdings, thus

empowers women and marginal & small farmers.

4.) Export and employment potential can be improved through food processing & value addition.

5.) Nutrients provision - milk, meat.

6.) It is complimentary to agriculture - will provide manure to agriculturists fodder can be grown on fallow dis-regarded land.

7.) Sustainable agriculture $\rightarrow$ Mixed agriculture
Challenges $\rightarrow$.

- 1.) Low productivity compared to international breeds.
- 2.) Fodder availability is not proper in drylands.
- 3.) Lack of value addition and distortions in supply chain - food processing is not done.
- 4.) Problem in adherence to Codex alimentarius and HACCP
- 5.) Lack of veterinary services.
- 6.) Lack of standards and quality

Recent steps taken by Govt.

- National Livestock mission has the objective of increasing livestock productivity, R&D in increasing productivity, Artificial insemination, ^{nutrient} fodder and feed, Veterinary services and standard adherence.

→ 'National Gokul mission' for dairy products

- Gokul Gram - to make villages as clusters for milk processing
- National Abattoir modernisation - ^{equality} for increasing standards in meat industry.

Food processing mission for value addition.

Thus sector is in the process of improvement.

17. What are the twin objectives of government food procurement policy in India? Discuss the instruments of this policy. Do you think there is an urgent need for rationalization of MSP policy in India?

भारत में सरकारी खाद्य खरीद (अधिप्राप्ति) नीति के दोहरे उद्देश्य क्या हैं? इस नीति के साधनों पर चर्चा कीजिए। क्या आप यह मानते हैं कि भारत में न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (एम.एस.पी.) नीति को तत्काल युक्तिमंगत बनाये जाने की आवश्यकता है?

Twin objectives of govt. food procurement policy -

1.) Price assurance for farmers.

2.) Food security

Food procurement policy is implemented through -

1.) Providing MSP for food crops. MSP to provide minimum support price for farmers.

2.) Procurement by FCI of ^{grain} the food ~~crops~~ for strategic/buffer stock + stock for PDS.

3.) This food stock is distributed and transported to states by FCI on issue price. Issue price is lower than MSP.

4.) States distribute food grains to beneficiaries according to Food Security Act, 2013. 67% of population is under PDS, which receive

Rice at 3 Rs, wheat 2 Rs and other grains 1 Rs.

Thus, whole policy subsidises the the farmers for more profit and poor for food security. This is market intervention to support poor population.

MSP policy is the major part of the procurement policy. There are major negatives in policy.

- 1.) MSP is put for 24 crops, whereas focus is on wheat & rice only. Other crops gets lesser support thus disparity.
- 2.) MSP is always put above the price provided by CACP, this lead to increased subsidy and fiscal stress.
- 3.) Environmental damage like growing rice in Rainfed areas, overuse of ground water is taking place.

4.) ~~But~~ most of procurement is done by PCT, which leads to atleast double storage of what is needed, plus carrying capacity of this is too high, and wastage of crops.

5.) Market distortions also takes place.

Need is to announce MSP prior to sowing season as provided by NITI Aayog study. The study says that MSP is needed but prices should be fixed according to market conditions and lower levels should be taken into account. Farmers should be aware about MSP for other crops also.

18. Discuss the potential of Food Processing Industry with regards to employment generation in India. What are the key impediments which need to be overcome before the sector can become internationally competitive and achieve high growth?

भारत में रोजगार सृजन करने के संबंध में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग की संभावनाओं पर चर्चा कीजिए। वे प्रमुख बाधाएँ कौन-सी हैं जिन्हें इस क्षेत्र को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धी बनाने एवं उच्च विकास प्राप्त करने हेतु दूर किए जाने की आवश्यकता है?

Food processing industry has huge potential for employment generation -

- 1.) Value addition of food will lead to development of small scale industries in villages. These can provide income and employment.
- 2.) Lesser wastage through processing leads to increased income.
- 3.) Forward linkages of food processing through ^{growth of} retail sector can provide further employment.
- 4.) Value addition has higher prices -
- 5.) Village industries like pickles, papad can get growth and thus employment.

The growing demands for processed food and increasing urbanisation provides enough market for food processing industry. Also, variety of agricultural products can give input. However, there are various impediments in its growth.

- 1.) Lack of investment in the sector.
Mega food park scheme has been delinked from central support.
- 2.) Acts like APMC and Essential commodities act, create hindrance in direct selling of produce from farmer to producer.
- 3.) Lack of technological growth, high import duties on equipments for food processing.
- 4.) Bottlenecks in supply chain, lack of cold storage and processing centres.

- 5.) Small farmers, having subsistence nature of farming.
- 6.) Lack of grading and standardizing methods.
- 7.) Skilled manpower is not available.

To increase its potential and make it competitive need is for proper supply chain management and providing support like through mega food park scheme to the sector. Contract farming and National e-market can be a support for this.

19. Mixed farming for the resource poor farmer is mostly a poverty induced option. Comment. What role can the government play to help farmers realise the potential from mixed farming.

संसाधनहीन निर्धन किसानों के लिए मिश्रित कृषि मुख्य रूप से निर्धनता प्रेरित विकल्प है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। मिश्रित कृषि की संभावनाओं को साकार करने हेतु, सरकार किसानों का सहयोग करने में क्या भूमिका निभा सकती है ?

Mixed farming is the method of
farming agriculture with livestock cultivation.

This is seen as poverty induced
option as lesser agricultural income
can be supplied through livestock.
and this leads to low agricultural
with livestock growth.

However, mixed farming can prove
prone to be method for sustainable
agriculture, for this to happen,
government support is needed.

- 1.) Providing efficient input for
increasing livestock productivity,
- 2.) Providing better credit option.
- 3.) Food processing technology

- 4.) Promotion of mixed farming through synergy b/w them like organic farming - use of animal dung for fertiliser
- 5.) Agriculture growth as fodder for livestock; this will utilise the farm and provide input for livestock.

The need is to see mixed farming as the future of agriculture. Livestock, farming, agroforestry, fisheries need to be part of sustainable agriculture.

20. What do you understand by cropping pattern? What are the factors that influence the cropping pattern in India? Is there a need to change the cropping pattern in the country keeping the agro-ecological concerns in mind?

फसल प्रतिरूप (क्रॉपिंग पैटर्न) से आप क्या समझते हैं? भारत में फसल प्रतिरूप को प्रभावित करने वाले कारक कौन से हैं? कृषि-पारिस्थितिकी चिंताओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए क्या देश में फसल प्रतिरूप को परिवर्तित करने की आवश्यकता है?

Cropping pattern means time and ^{various} scale distribution of crops, i.e. what type of crops grow in particular area at particular time. Like Rice - wheat cycle is followed in Northern + western India.

Factors which influence the cropping pattern are -

- 1.) Climatic and physical conditions of the area. (Rainfall, Soil)
- 2.) Government policies - like MSP, leading to growth of rice and wheat cultivation.
- 3.) Farming culture prevalent in an area from history.

4.) Technological change in particular crop.

5.) market conditions, requiring the growth of particular crop for Exports - Tea, Coffee.

There is a need to change the cropping patterns in the country -

1) It need to be according to the agro-ecological conditions.

Rice - In drought prone areas is a very bad option. The result in salinisation & alkalinisation is Punjab, Haryana and increased vulnerability to droughts in Maharashtra.

2.) Pulses and oilseeds are being imported and when they are most suitable for dry land in India, then need is to promote them.

3. crop diversification is urgently needed as soil erosion and water degradation is happening at very high rates.

Grain crop - pulses - cycle is needed for this.

4.) Horticulture need to be promoted in areas like North-east and Himalayan region.

Thus cropping pattern if it's acc. to agro ecological needs would be more productive and more sustainable.