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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1236)

Name of Candidate	Sanjita Mohapatra		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	60279
Center	ORN	Date	25.3.19

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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20	15	

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 **ENGLISH & HINDI** इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी 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।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi- 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

1. Livestock farming not only contributes to climate change but is also affected by it. Elaborate the statement and discuss some measures that can be taken to make livestock farming more sustainable as well as resilient. (150 Words) 10

पशुधन खेती (लाइवस्टॉक फार्मिंग) न केवल जलवायु परिवर्तन में योगदान देता है, बल्कि इससे प्रभावित भी होता है। इस कथन का सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए और पशुधन खेती को अधिक संधारणीय के साथ-साथ लचीला (रिज़िलियंट) बनाने हेतु उठाए जा सकने वाले कुछ कदमों की विवेचना कीजिए।

India has one of the largest livestock population in the world (15%). Livestock farming contributes to $\frac{1}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ of rural economy and 26% of agricultural GDP. It has immense potential to reduce poverty, provide additional income to rural poor. Yet it has emerged as one of largest contributors to climate change as in:

- i) Feed and fodder crop are one of the largest contributors of methane production resulting in global warming.
- ii) the dung and waste products of livestock contribute to emission of green house gases.
- iii) overgrazing leads to soil degradation and leaching of soil easily - leading to soil erosion, eutrophication of water bodies.
- iv) large scale processing of red meat, poultry, sheep, goats generate huge amount of waste which is not treated scientifically leading to pollution.

Effect on livestock:

- ↳ lack of unavailability of nutritious feed and fodder material
- ↳ heat waves have resulted in killing of large

no. of poultry in Andhra Pradesh and
Telangana

↳ rise in diseases because of rising pollution
climate change have affected livestock the
most e.g - swine flu, avian influenza etc.

↳ changing weather conditions have made livestock
survival unpredictable.

Measures to make livestock farming sustainable
and resilient:

- i) Adoption of livestock extension services to a
large extent.
- ii) Improving on drought, pest resistant feed and
fodder crops.
- iii) Building proper infrastructure to shield
livestock from abrupt climate changes.
- iv) Making people scientifically aware to utilize
the waste products in productive way
e.g - GOBAR-dhan initiative
Food processing industries.

Government has formulated National Livestock
Mission, National Dairy Plan (Phase-I)
National Boreni Breeding Programme which
all needs to be synergized to get a
resilient and sustainable livestock
farming.

2. A developed Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) will not only augment the overall transport capacity of the country, but also help correct the multi-modal transport mix. Discuss. (150 words) 10

एक विकसित अंतर्देशीय जलमार्ग परिवहन (IWT) न केवल देश की समग्र परिवहन क्षमता को बढ़ाएगा, अपितु इससे मल्टी-मॉडल परिवहन मिश्रण को सुधारने में भी सहायता मिलेगी। चर्चा कीजिए।

With nearly 8000 km of coastline and 14500 km of navigable inland waterways, India has a huge unexplored potential of transportation. The formulation of National Inland Waterway Act is focused on developing the same.

Augment overall transport capacity of country:

- i) improve the transportation of bulky material at least per capita cost.
- ii) relieve the excessive pressure on road logistics.
- iii) freeing up road space for ever increasing personal vehicles.
- iv) Transport logistics is one of the most important yet poorly developed field. Inland waterways connecting some of the busiest places like Varanasi, Haldia, Kollam, Kottapuram would boost exports through ports.

Correct the multi-modal transport mix:

↳ nearly 60% of goods are transported through roads and 40% through rail, which are not as energy efficient as inland waterways.

↳ road transport is even costlier while inland waterways are way cheaper if per capita cost is concerned.

↳ ensuring pollution because of road and rail mix can be minimized by using inland waterways.

Bottlenecks in inland waterways:

↳ lack of patient capital

↳ road infrastructure has always been preferred. Private players don't find inland waterways an attractive investment.

↳ huge capital investment.

If properly developed inland waterways have a potential to revolutionize the multimodal mix of transport, effectively reducing logistics cost. As per Economic Survey a reduction of 10% of logistic cost can improve/boost economic growth by 5-6%.

3. Highlight the importance of Agricultural Market Intelligence for farmers in India. Identifying the issues in the present system, suggest some measures for improving Agricultural Market Intelligence in India. (150 words) 10

भारत में किसानों के लिए कृषि बाजार आसूचना के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालिए। वर्तमान प्रणाली में निहित समस्याओं की पहचान करते हुए, भारत में कृषि बाजार आसूचना में सुधार लाने हेतु कुछ उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Agricultural market intelligence refers to the availability of information and data on the demand and supply of agricultural goods, the fluctuation in prices, the stocks prices and an overall global agricultural scenario.

Importance of Agricultural Market intelligence:

- ↳ reduction of information asymmetry
- ↳ better realization of prices by farmers
- ↳ help in better decision making in the subsequent produce for farmers.
- ↳ augment their productivity and boost their income.

Issues in present system:

- ↳ highly fragmented market throughout the state as well as the country. prevalence
- ↳ lack of awareness of farmers and digital illiteracy
- ↳ cartelization and monopoly of traders who shield any data.
- ↳ absence of any integrated, holistic point for dissemination of complete market-information. Village Resource Centre,

Kishan Centres have all fragmented pieces of information.

Measures to improve Agricultural Market-
Intelligence:

↳ complete adoption of e-NAM (National Agricultural Market) by all states - which will go a long way to reduce information asymmetry.

↳ targeting for a unified market by 2020

↳ in lines of ITC e-Choupal, a large scale program to be devised to let the villagers know the market information at their fingertips.

↳ leveraging of mobile technology, sms, Krishi Vigyan Kendra to disseminate data.

↳ promoting FPOs, private participation to bring in data and technology.
Hence the presence of wide data on market will ultimately help the farmer arrive at a better decision and improve his productivity and income.

4. With water increasingly becoming a scarce resource, large scale adoption of micro irrigation techniques could prove to be a game changer in India. Analyse. Also enumerate various steps taken by the government to promote micro irrigation in India. (150 words) 10

जल के उत्तरोत्तर दुर्लभ संसाधन बनते जाने के कारण भारत में सूक्ष्म सिंचाई तकनीकों का व्यापक पैमाने पर अंगीकरण निर्णायक सिद्ध हो सकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में सूक्ष्म सिंचाई को बढ़ावा देने हेतु सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए विभिन्न कदमों को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

Nearly 85% of India's water is used in agricultural purposes. But as NITI Aayog in its report pointed out 600 million people are living in severe water stress conditions, optimum utilization of water resources is of paramount importance in today's increasingly thirsty world.

Micro irrigation techniques: refer to the irrigation techniques which deals with adoption of water conservation measures by providing the right amount of water, at right place and at right time, leading to minimum wastage.

Benefits of micro irrigation:

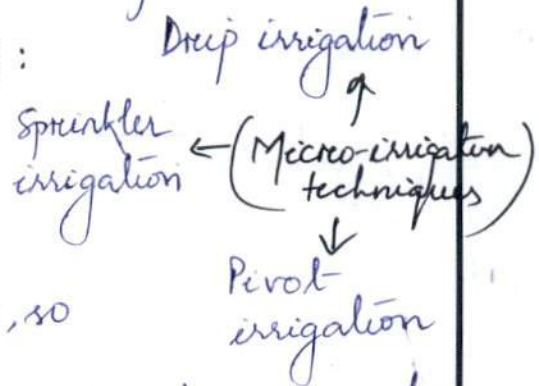
- i) optimum utilization and minimum wastage of water

ii) prevent formation of weeds, so cost saving.

iii) prevents leaching of soil nutrients - prevents pollution.

iv) improve productivity because of accurate targeting.

v) though high initial cost of installation, later saving of cost due to reduction in water, fertilizers.



chemicals etc.

- v) fertilizers, chemicals are dissolved in water and accurately targeted at plant - reducing wastage.

Steps taken by government to promote micro-irrigation in India:

- i) rolling out of the scheme Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana which has 3 components:
 - ↳ Hare Khet Ko Pani
 - ↳ Per drop more crop - focussing on micro-irrigation techniques
 - ↳ Watershed development
- ii) Micro-irrigation fund developed under NABARD to assist States and farmers in capital requirement.
- iii) Promoting micro-irrigation techniques by leveraging Israel's expertise - by signing MoU's.

Hence Government has adopted various active steps to accelerate adoption of micro-irrigation in India which is still underdeveloped.

5. The cropping pattern of a region is influenced by geo-climatic, socio-cultural, economic, historical and political factors. Substantiate with relevant examples.

(150 words) 10

किसी क्षेत्र का शस्य प्रतिरूप भू-जलवायविक, सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक, आर्थिक, ऐतिहासिक और राजनीतिक कारकों से प्रभावित होता है। प्रासंगिक उदाहरणों के साथ पुष्टि कीजिए।

Cropping pattern of a region refers to the temporal and spatial distribution of crops in the particular region. It is dependent of numerous factors :

Geo-climatic factors :

- i) Abundance of tea cultivation in Darjeeling slopes, because of sloppy hills, abundant sunshine and frost free days.
- ii) Coffee plantation in Araku valley because of sloppy well drained soils, cool climate, shaded area.
- iii) Rice grown in deltaic Ganga because of flat terrain, hot temperature (25°C), and abundant water, alluvial soil.

Socio-cultural :

- i) Bajra, wheat predominantly cultivated in northern regions, while rice in eastern and southern regions because of dietary needs.
- ii) Hardy millets grown in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh as part of their local diet.

Economic aspects :

- i) Sugarcane grown in western and southern parts because of long growing season,

remunerative prices.

- ii) Cotton is still grown in Gujarat, Maharashtra area because of cotton mills and export facilities.

Historical factors:

- i) Tea estates have been traditionally grown in Darjeeling area by Britishers and it continues till date.
- ii) Spices are predominantly grown in Malabar area and is still done.

Political factors:

In spite of degrading soil and groundwater level, rice, wheat and sugarcane still grown in UP, Haryana, Punjab. The desertification of the areas have not dissuaded farmers yet to adopt crop diversification.

Hence cropping pattern of a region is not a mixture of numerous factors and hence varies from region to region.

6. Integrating ecology and technology is the way forward towards achieving Evergreen Revolution in India. Discuss. (150 words) 10

पारिस्थितिकी और प्रौद्योगिकी का एकीकरण भारत में सदाबहार क्रांति की प्राप्ति की दिशा में आगे की राह है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Evergreen Revolution will usher when it results in sustainable, resilient, holistic all round development. The revolution is to stay forever and its effects everlasting.

Integrating ecology and technology :

In the fast developing world with Industrial Revolution 4.0 knocking on doors, world has to swiftly adapt. But not at the cost of ecology. Ecology and technology need to be entwined by :

- i) Agricultural sector - making agriculture sustainable, resilient and climate change proof. Adopting remote sensing, GIS to monitor crops, adopting water conservation techniques, hybrid drought and pest resistance crops etc.
- ii) Livestock sector - making livestock resilient, feeding nutrient rich fodder, conserving indigenous breeds, improving productivity by assisted adapting ~~genomic~~ ^{assisted} reproduction of higher merit bull;
- iii) Food processing sector - has the biggest role to play in reducing wastage and

improving the value chain of food management. Technology usage in cold storage, processing, packaging plays a huge role

- iv) Pollution control - by adopting scientific afforestation techniques, water treatment technologies, air monitoring and filtration technologies - thereby reducing pollution levels.
- v) Sustainable survival of all beings - by countering climate change ~~and~~ ^{by} adopting technology in helping reduce global fossil fuel footprint, reduce ocean acidification and warming.

Hence technology has an immense role to play in managing ecology if used judiciously. But if same is used for only parochial profit motives it can cause irreparable damage to ecology. All of the above can lead to an evergreen revolution which is sustainable.

7. The adoption of agro-based clusters can generate positive spill-over effects on agricultural and rural development. Discuss. (150 words) 10

कृषि आधारित संकुलों (क्लस्टर्स) को अपनाना कृषि और ग्रामीण विकास पर सकारात्मक अधिप्लावन प्रभाव उत्पन्न कर सकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Agro-based clusters refers to a group of farmers, SHGs, farmers producer organizations coming together for primary processing of agricultural products.

Benefits of adopting agro based clusters on agriculture:

- ↳ take advantage of economies of scale
- ↳ improve productivity because of presence of technological support-
- ↳ improve bargaining power of farmers.
- ↳ better realization of prices by farmers, make agriculture remunerative
- ↳ backward linkages can help in bringing much needed technology and skill into agriculture.
- ↳ presence of private players can also augment technological adaptation.
- ↳ improved climate resilient, sustainable agricultural practices can be adopted.

On rural development:

- ↳ reduce poverty levels because of better incomes.

- ↳ stability in sell of agricultural produce reducing distress sale.
- ↳ reduce urban-rural divide, and bring prosperity in rural sector.
- ↳ enhance rural demand spurring economic growth.
- ↳ shield farmers from price fluctuations of goods and thus reduce farmer and rural distress.

Agro-based clusters can become a hub for processing primary products resulting in value addition and providing farmer's extra income. Under Pradhan Mantri Sampada Yojana, Agro-based clustering has been given special focus to realize all the above.

8. Reliance on borrowings for capital expenditure in railways reflects a weakening financial position. Comment on the statement and discuss ways in which better resource generation and utilisation can be achieved therein. **(150 words) 10**

रेलवे में पूंजीगत व्यय के लिए उधारी पर निर्भरता कमजोर होती वित्तीय स्थिति को प्रतिबिंबित करती है। इस कथन पर टिप्पणी कीजिए और उन उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए जिनसे इसमें बेहतर संसाधन सृजन और उपयोगिता प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

Railways constituted nearly 80% of India's budget at pre-independence. It reflected the growing Indian economy. But years of political apathy, populist policies and neglect has led to deterioration of railways financial and structural health.

Reliance on borrowings for capital expenditure reflects weakening financial position because:

- i) capital expenditure is supposed to generate revenues ultimately which can be used for reinvestment.
- ii) Reliance on borrowings jeopardizes the investment and keeps it in a state of instability.
- iii) Huge borrowings can distort the fiscal balance.
- iv) Unprofitable business ultimately collapses. And in case of railways, this will lead to huge loss of public money.

For better resource generation and utilisation in railways:

- i) shunning of populist policies in determining passenger fares.

- ii) reducing cross subsidization of fares from freight charges.
- iii) rationalization of trains running in unprofitable routes.
- iv) sub-leasing non-core activities to private players for efficiency and cost saving.
- v) leasing of fallow railway lands for revenue.
- vi) leasing of places inside platform for consumer amenities.
- vii) digitization of reservations, lists reducing stationary needs and cost.
- viii) improving operating efficiency by rationalising speed and maintenance of tracks and trains.

The need is to rationalize the railways fiscal structure to boost it. High speed railways, Train 18 are positive development. The capacity must be build on these and further augmented to turn railways as a profitable venture rather than a political ball game.

9. Why does achieving road safety in India remain a challenging task? Keeping different stakeholders in mind, suggest some measures which can be adopted for reducing road accidents in India. (150 words) 10

भारत में सड़क सुरक्षा प्राप्त करना क्यों एक चुनौतीपूर्ण कार्य बना हुआ है? विभिन्न हितधारकों को ध्यान में रखते हुए, कुछ उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए, जिन्हें भारत में सड़क दुर्घटनाओं को कम करने के लिए अपनाया जा सकता है।

In the recent report released by Ministry of Road Transport, it was reported that 1 person dies every 3 minutes in India because of road accidents. Hence road safety is of prime concern.

Achieving road safety - a challenging task:

- i) Public apathy - reckless flouting of traffic rules, not wearing helmets e.g. - Pune crowd agitating against helmet usage; speeding up, drunk driving are still rampant.
- ii) Road infrastructure is still in shambles. Every year the road develops large potholes as evident in roads of Bangalore, Mumbai etc. Because of usage of sub standard material and corrupt contractors.
- iii) Lack of strict implementation of traffic rules has further heightened flouting of norms.
- iv) Lack of manpower and resources at the end of traffic department to ensure implementation of all rules.

Measures to reduce road accidents in India :

- i) Public - need to made more aware through programs, campaigns etc
- ii) Traffic department - to be strengthened, resources augmented and manpower supplied
- iii) Laws - to be made stricter, penalties enhanced, and mandatory application of fines in case of violations
- iv) Road infrastructure - transparent bidding process, awarding of contracts to legitimate builders, regular inspection of work, ensuring guarantee for road built for certain period.
- v) Role of civil society, NGOs - to sensitize public, parents and be a observer to report unscrupulous contractors.

Road Bill

Motor Vehicle Safety ~~Act~~ draft has been prepared and circulated. All stakeholders must come together to address the shortcomings and implement it at the earliest.

10. Despite initiatives taken in recent times to support the logistics sector, it continues to face multiple challenges. Discuss. What further steps can be taken to address these challenges? (150 words) 10

लॉजिस्टिक्स क्षेत्र के समर्थन हेतु की गई नवीनतम पहलों के बावजूद, इसे लगातार कई चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। चर्चा कीजिए। इन चुनौतियों के समाधान हेतु और क्या कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं?

Logistics sector in India is a nearly USD 130 million enterprise and poised to grow at a much faster rate. But in spite of its importance, it faces several challenges:

- i) lack of financial capital for the sector
- ii) land acquisition issues, environmental clearances delay e.g - Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor.
- iii) lack of research and development to install state of art technology, dependency on imported technology.
- iv) judicial delays because of litigation - leading to cost and time overrun.
- v) lack of coordination among States for national logistics plan implementation.
- vi) lack of infrastructure - warehousing, storage facilities
- vii) lack of skilled personnel to work in logistics sector.

Recent government initiatives:

↳ imparting infrastructure status to logistics sector to access long term funds.

↳ improving public expenditure in logistics sector.
 ↳ setting up new logistics Department in MoCommerce
 Steps to address these challenges:

- i) exploring new sectors for financing logistics sector.
- ii) promoting public-private partnership in logistics sector.
- iii) skilling persons under Skill India Mission.
- iv) Building state of art warehousing and storage infrastructure.
- vi) Removing red tapism, corruption and faster clearances.
- vii) Setting up of dedicated benches for clearances of infrastructural cases.

India has come down to 44th position in Logistics Index of World Bank (2018) from its previous rank of 35th. Logistics^{cost} reduction of 10% can boost economic growth by 5-6%. Hence addressing logistics issues is of paramount importance.

11. The contribution of coal based power generation is not expected to substantially go down in the next few decades, despite growing importance of renewables. Comment on the statement in light of increasing demand for power in India.

(250 words) 15

नवीकरणीय संसाधनों के बढ़ते महत्व के बावजूद, कोयला आधारित विद्युत उत्पादन के योगदान में अगले कुछ दशकों में मूलतः कमी आने की उम्मीद नहीं है। भारत में विद्युत की बढ़ती मांग के आलोक में इस कथन पर टिप्पणी कीजिए।

The contribution of coal based power generation still hovers at nearly 57% inspite of India's renewed push to enhance contribution of renewable sources of energy, which is at mere 21%.

Reason for consistent coal based power generation:

- ↳ India has huge reserves of thermal coal for use in its power plant.
- ↳ cheapest source of power for the time being in India.
- ↳ ^{thermal} power plants in India have been in existence for long, have achieved sufficiency and are self-equipped.
- ↳ Coal mining is an important primary activity in India. Along with coal power plants, it engages huge population in employment.
- ↳ it provides cheap electricity to various other industries - hence is an important

foundational industries

Issues with renewable energy:

- ↳ technology is still nascent and unexplored
- ↳ price of electricity unstable and at times high
- ↳ dependence on imports for technology
- ↳ yet to have large scale adoption by population
- ↳ intermittent power supply - lack of development of sustainable storage solutions - makes ~~its~~ grids unstable.

Increasing demand of power - As per NITI Aayog's National Energy Policy, 2017 the energy demands of the country is poised to more than double.

Wind energy has achieved its sufficiency but solar power is yet to be fully exploited and used.

In this case the goal of achieving 100 GW of renewable power seems bit distant.

And to augment this coal based power plant-
are to ~~be~~ stay for long.

Hence India can leverage its position in
International Solar Alliance and speedily
augment its solar capacity.

Wind energy is mostly confined to Tamil Nadu
and Gujarat. Hence is location specific.

The need is to develop Smart Grids to
optimize electricity usage and generation.
Gradual phasing out of coal based power plant-
must be thought of because of the impending boom
of climate change, which is a stark reality.

12. Despite comprehensive government support to agriculture, why is it that farming in India remains unremunerative? Do you agree that direct income support under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a much needed measure to make agriculture a viable source of livelihood? (250 words) 15

कृषि के निमित्त व्यापक सरकारी सहायता के बावजूद, ऐसा क्यों है कि भारत में खेती अलाभकारी बनी हुई है? क्या आप इस बात से सहमत हैं कि प्रधान मंत्री किसान सम्मान निधि (PM-KISAN) के अंतर्गत प्रत्यक्ष आय सहायता कृषि को आजीविका का एक व्यवहार्य स्रोत बनाने हेतु एक अति आवश्यक उपाय है?

Agricultural sector in India has remained a primary employer with nearly half of populace engaged in it, still it remains in disarray.

Reasons:

- i) Agriculture in India is a highly uncertain, intensive decision making process for the farmer. Taking into account the vagaries of monsoon, climate change, soil degradation, water unavailability - a farmer has to decide when to sow, what to sow and how much to sow.
- ii) fragmented land holdings - 80% farmers marginal and small - lack economy of scale.
- iii) Continuous rise of input costs of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc.
- iv) 53% of ~~the~~ arable land is rainfed - farmer left to the vagaries of nature.

- v) Informal credit culture with spuriously high interest still prevalent.
- vi) lack of penetration of crop insurance to grass root level.
- vii) fragmented ^{agricultural} markets - lack of realization of fair price by farmers.
- viii) lack of awareness and capital to implement modern technology.

PM-KISAN scheme envisages giving a sum of ~~Rs 25000 per farmer~~ directly Rs 6000 per hectare will be given to farmers with landholding of less than 2 hectares.

↳ direct transfer would help farmers to buy necessary inputs for their agricultural purpose.

But, the landless labourers and sharecroppers are excluded from its purview.

Benefits of PM-KISAN -

- ↳ provide ready cash to farmers to purchase inputs as per their need.
- ↳ plug leakages and reduce subsidy bill
- ↳ efficient targeting.

Drawbacks :

- ↳ excludes landless labourers, sharecroppers.
- ↳ the cost of Rs 6000 converts to mere Rs 16/day - which is quite less for the farmer viewing the rising input costs.
- ↳ it doesnot address the information asymmetry, fragmented market, MSP structure.

PM-KISAN is a welcome step, but the real issue lies in structural overhaul of agricultural

set up :

- ↳ ^{helping} making farmers take informed decision
- ↳ enhancing agricultural extension services
- ↳ unified markets, changing APMC Act at the earliest
- ↳ universal crop insurance coverage.
- ↳ implementation of PM- Krishi Sinchai Yojana at the earnest.

Hence only direct cash will not be of great help if other structural reforms are not-carried out simultaneously

13. Elaborate the strategic and operational elements of the Agriculture Export Policy, 2018 and discuss the role it can play to achieve the target of doubling farmers' income by 2022. (250 words) 15

कृषि निर्यात नीति, 2018 के रणनीतिक एवं परिचालन-संबंधी तत्वों का सविस्तर वर्णन कीजिए और 2022 तक किसानों की आय को दोगुना करने के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में इसके द्वारा निभायी जा सकने वाली भूमिका की विवेचना कीजिए।

Agricultural Export Policy 2018 has the vision to - Harness the agricultural export potential of India through suitable policy support, making India a global agricultural export leader and enhancing farmers income.

The various features of the policy:

- i) Raise the agricultural export from \$30 billion to \$60 billion by 2022 and to \$100 billion gradually in coming years.
- ii) diversify the export product basket, export destination.
- iii) promote export of organic, pure, traditional and non-traditional goods.
- iv) doubling the income of the farmers.
- v) enhancing the quality of the exports products.

Strategic elements of export policy:

- i) Policy support - to provide proper, holistic and sound policy support to enhance export.
- ii) Enhancing the role of involvement of States to improve the exports and decentralize the exports.
- iii) Holistic approach to be adopted to bring about convergence of all policies, plans and schemes.

Operational elements:

- ↳ Promoting the 'Brand India' to enhance exports.
- ↳ Focussing more on value added products.
- ↳ focussing on establishment of food processing industries.
- ↳ focussing on improving quality and to ensure standard quality at all levels.

Role of agricultural exports in doubling farmers income by 2022:

- i) provide farmers with greater market access thereby better realization of prices.
- ii) information asymmetry can be reduced resulting in better decision making in production process.
- iii) exposing farmers at global level help in adopting best practices, thereby improving productivity.
- iv) Stable export policy can encourage farmers to adopt prudent agricultural sowing decisions matching the market demand-supply.
- v) help them come out of cob-web phenomena, hence prevent loss of prices.
- vi) encourage farmers to produce higher quality products, leading to greater price realization, hence increasing income of farmers.

Agricultural export policy 2018 if implemented at the earnest can bring a sea change in farmer's income.

14. Highlight the reasons behind inconclusive land ownership titles in India. Discuss its repercussions and suggest measures for moving towards conclusive land titling system in India. (250 words) 15

भारत में अनिर्णायक भूस्वामित्व स्वत्वाधिकारों के पीछे उत्तरदायी कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। इसके अप्रत्यक्ष प्रभावों की विवेचना कीजिए और भारत में निर्णायक भूमि स्वत्वाधिकारों की प्रणाली की दिशा में आगे बढ़ने के उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

The Land Reforms undertaken in India immediately after independence was with the motive to improve productivity of land by bringing economic prosperity to farmers and ensure equitable distribution of development.

But even after 70 years of Independence it remains an unfinished agenda.

Reasons behind inconclusive land ownership titles in India:

- i) lack of proper foolproof land records for transfer of ownership.
- ii) large landowners adopted unscrupulous methods to defeat transfer of land ownership proposals such as benami transfers.
- iii) large scale prevalence of informal tenancy who had no documentary evidence to support their claims.
- iv) Political class themselves were large landowners, hence they fudged land records to prevent

Land Reforms
 ↳ Abolition of zamindars and intermediaries
 ↳ Land ceiling
 ↳ Tenancy Reforms
 ↳ Cooperative Agriculture

implementation of same.

- v) lack of will on the part of States to implement it.
- vi) huge litigation on many disputed lands, incapacity of judiciary to deal with so many cases; poor unable to meet judiciary expenses.

Repercussions :

- i) Still prevalence of large scale informal tenancy and share cropping - they in turn are devoid of accessing formal credit or farm loan waiver - hence worst affected - more poverty - more rural distress.
- ii) growing rural-urban divide, large scale rural poverty.
- iii) landless labourers, sharecroppers are the poorest lot.
- iv) hampers overall economic growth of economy.

Measures for conclusive land titling system:

- i) Complete digitization of land records of India to be completed as soon as possible.
- ii) Adoption of block chain technology to make updation of land records in real time making it transparent and efficient.
- iii) ~~lack~~ Presence of will power on the part of States and politicians to implement

reforms at the earnest.

- iv) Enhancing judicial capacity to resolve disputed land holdings at the earliest.

✓ The land reforms could be a success in West Bengal and partly in Kerala because of people's struggle and political will. Land titling can be completed if efforts are synchronized and reforms implemented at the earnest.

15. Despite measures taken by the government for promoting investment in the infrastructure sector in the last few years, there are multiple challenges that still exist. Discuss. What further steps can be taken in this regard? (250 words) 15

विगत कुछ वर्षों में अवसंरचना क्षेत्र में निवेश को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार द्वारा किए गए उपायों के बावजूद, कई चुनौतियाँ अभी भी विद्यमान हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। इस संबंध में आगे और क्या कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं?

India, being a developing nation, has huge infrastructural needs to the tune of USD 450 trillion by 2040 as per Economic Survey.

Government has adopted various measures to promote investment in infrastructure sector:

↳ promotion of public-private-partnership model. Announcing establishment of 3P

India to boost PPP sector

↳ formation of Infrastructural financing Corporation Limited to finance infrastructural needs.

→ formation of National Invest Infrastructure Investment Fund to channelize fund.

↳ Invest India portal to promote FDI in India.

↳ public investment through Bharatmala Pariyojana, Sagarmala Pariyojana to boost infrastructure sector.

Challenges in infrastructure investment :

↳ Capital requirement is still not being able to be met because of :

- i) rising Non Performing Assets of banks leading to reduced lendings.
- ii) ~~too~~ stressed balance sheets of companies reducing private investment.

↳ Delay in governmental clearance leading to project cost and time overrun.

↳ bureaucratic red-tapism, corruption.

↳ inadequate exploration of bond markets.

↳ limitations on investment by pension funds as huge amount parked in Government securities.

Steps that needs to be taken are:

i) Adoption of full proof Model Concession Agreement to prevent any future litigation.

ii) Faster adoption of Hybrid Annuity model in PPP sector.

iii) Faster clearance of investment-proposal.

- iv) Enhancing judicial capacity to deal with cases at the earliest.
- v) Usage of technology to make processes online, transparent and faster.

The focus of Government is on faster movement of infrastructure is evident from its continuous push to the sector:

↳ by enacting Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

↳ infusion of 2.11 lakh crore rupees in banks.

↳ e-biz project.

Hence it will ultimately lead to faster increased investment in infrastructure sector.

16. Identify the problems faced by Indian agriculture as a consequence of changing land holding pattern as witnessed in the findings of Agriculture census, 2015-16. In light of these problems, suggest suitable ways to resolve such structural issues in agriculture. (250 words) 15

जैसा कि कृषि संगणना, 2015-16 के जाँच परिणामों में देखा गया है, परिवर्तनशील भू-धारण प्रतिरूप के परिणामस्वरूप भारतीय कृषि के समक्ष आने वाली समस्याओं की पहचान कीजिए। इन समस्याओं के प्रकाश में, कृषि में ऐसे संरचनात्मक मुद्दों का समाधान करने के लिए उपयुक्त उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

- Indian Agriculture contributes only 18% to India's GDP, but employs 45.7% of its population as per Agriculture census 2015-16.
- Changing land holding pattern has resulted in:
- ↳ further fragmentation of land parcels, average land holding size - 1.12 hectare
 - ↳ reducing economy of scale, reduction in productivity
 - ↳ large wastage of land on forming boundaries between lands.
 - ↳ inability of usage of large scale technology or machinery because of lack of capital.
 - ↳ intensive non-remunerative agriculture.
 - ↳ rise in disguised unemployment and underemployment.
 - ↳ rural distress, farmer suicides.
 - ↳ Nearly 80% of farmers small and marginal,

practising intensive agriculture, with no surplus to sell.

Ways to resolve such structural issues:

- ↳ promote formation of farmer producer organizations to gain economy of scale.
- ↳ resurgence of co-operatives by reducing bureaucratic control and political interference.
- ↳ establishment of agro based clusters within villages to boost income of small and marginal farmers.
- ↳ promoting usage of water and soil conservation measures to reduce input cost.
- ↳ promote adoption of zero-budget farming, organic farming, zero-till farming.
- ↳ proper implementation of National Livestock mission to augment their incomes.
- ↳ faster completion of digitization of land records and land title ownership.
- ↳ ~~to~~ reduce kharifed areas at the earliest to prevent rural distress.

Pradhan Mantri Krushi Sinchai Yojana,
Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana,
Soil Health Card, & Pradhan Mantri-
AASHA yojana, KUSUM yojana are steps
in right direction to address agricultural
distress. It needs to be implemented
at the earliest.

17. Write a brief note on 'Dry Ports' and their significance in mitigating logistic challenges in India. Also, discuss the challenges in their development and measures needed to address them. (250 words) 15

भारत में लॉजिस्टिक्स की चुनौतियों को कम करने में 'शुष्क पत्तनों' एवं उनके महत्व पर एक संक्षिप्त टिप्पणी लिखिए। साथ ही, उनके विकास में आने वाली चुनौतियों और उनके समाधान हेतु आवश्यक उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Dry Ports refer to inland port facilities which have all necessary warehousing, storage, logistics facilities for handling of goods and cargo. They serve as a feeding port to the coastal ports and offload the excessive logistics requirement from the main coastal port.

Significance :

- ↳ can be built on a smaller space in the hinterland but connected to main coastal port.
- ↳ relieve the main port of excessive load
- ↳ can act as a state of art warehousing and storage facility, boosting investment and growth.

Challenges in their development :

- i) land acquisition for the ports is a big bottleneck.

- i) environmental and other governmental clearances are time consuming.
 - ii) lack of high end technology to plan and install dry port.
 - iv) lack of interest of private players to build ~~install~~ dry ports
- ✓

18. Development of food processing industry will help in achieving the twin goals of inclusive growth and food security. Discuss. Also, account for the competitive advantages enjoyed by India in the food processing sector. (250 words) 15

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग के विकास से समावेशी विकास और खाद्य सुरक्षा के दोहरे लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में सहायता मिलेगी। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, खाद्य प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्रक में भारत को प्राप्त प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक लाभ का भी विवरण दीजिए।

Food Processing Industry in India has been tagged as the sunrise industry of India. With a growth rate of nearly 11%, food processing industry of India is the 5th largest in the world.

Achieving food security:

Nearly 30-40% of fruits and vegetables and 10-15% of other food items are wasted because of lack of food processing measures.

In spite of having record grain production year after year, nearly 35% of children are underweight in India.

Food processing can help in:

- ↳ improving the shelf life of the primary products.
- ↳ enhance the nutritional value of the products.
- ↳ ~~enhance~~ more food would be available to be distributed at Midday meal and Anganwadis.
- ↳ increasing income of farmers will promote

investment in improving nutrient requirement.
↳ reduction in wastage of food.

Inclusive growth:

- i) greatly enhance the income of small and marginal farmers, reducing poverty.
- ii) less wastage of primary products - more available for sale, ~~more~~ better realization of prices.
- iii) open large scale employment opportunities.
- iv) primary driver in pushing youth from agriculture to manufacturing.
- v) Women are biggest beneficiaries through their Self Help groups can take part in food processing.
- vi) reduction in rural-urban divide
- vii) growing rural prosperity, reduces rural to urban migration, relieving stress on urban infrastructure.

Competitive advantages enjoyed by India:

- ↳ largest arable land in the world
- ↳ presence of 46 types of soil out of 60, 20 agro-climatic zones, hence produce large variety of crops, vegetables, fruits etc.

- ↳ largest producers of some vegetables and fruits
- ↳ rising incomes, middle class, younger generations - hence demand for processed food - huge domestic market
- ↳ locational advantage - near all major importing nations especially Middle East and South east Asia.
- ↳ presence of supply of huge cheap labour
- ↳ competitive pricing.

Pradhan Mantri SAMPADA yojana, Mega Food Parks, Integrated Horticulture Development Program have been initiated to tap the huge potential of Food Processing Industry. World Food India, 2017 even showcased India to be great investment opportunity in this sector. Hence it has a big role to play.

19. Despite existence of a large market, the real estate sector is facing many challenges in India. Elaborate. Also, discuss the measures taken by the government to address them. Can Housing for All by 2022 be a game-changer in this regard? (250 words) 15

एक बड़े बाजार की उपस्थिति के बावजूद, भारत में रियल एस्टेट क्षेत्र को कई चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही, इनके समाधान हेतु सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों की भी विवेचना कीजिए। क्या 2022 तक सभी के लिए आवास इस संबंध में निर्णायक सिद्ध हो सकता है?

Real estate sector is one of the largest-income generating sector with huge potential. But it has failed to realise its potential because :

- i) Land grabbing by corrupt people leading to rise of artificial scarcity in market.
- ii) Poor income level of common man has further declined the demand of real estate, as they cannot afford it.
- iii) Stressed bank assets has resulted in decline of passing of loans for buying houses.
- iv) ~~to~~ defaulted companies are unable to invest in building houses, hence scarcity leading to further price rise.
- v) Rural to urban migration has stretched urban infrastructure.

20. Identify the maladies affecting the proper functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Comment on the feasibility of alternatives available to TPDS. (250 words) 15

लक्षित सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (TPDS) के समुचित कार्यकरण को प्रभावित करने वाली विकृतियों की पहचान कीजिए। TPDS के लिए उपलब्ध विकल्पों की व्यवहार्यता पर टिप्पणी कीजिए।

The Targeted Public Distribution System was initiated in the year 1997 to further intensify the existing PDS scheme and target below poverty line people along with Above Poverty line people.

But after so many years of existence TPDS is rife with problems such as:

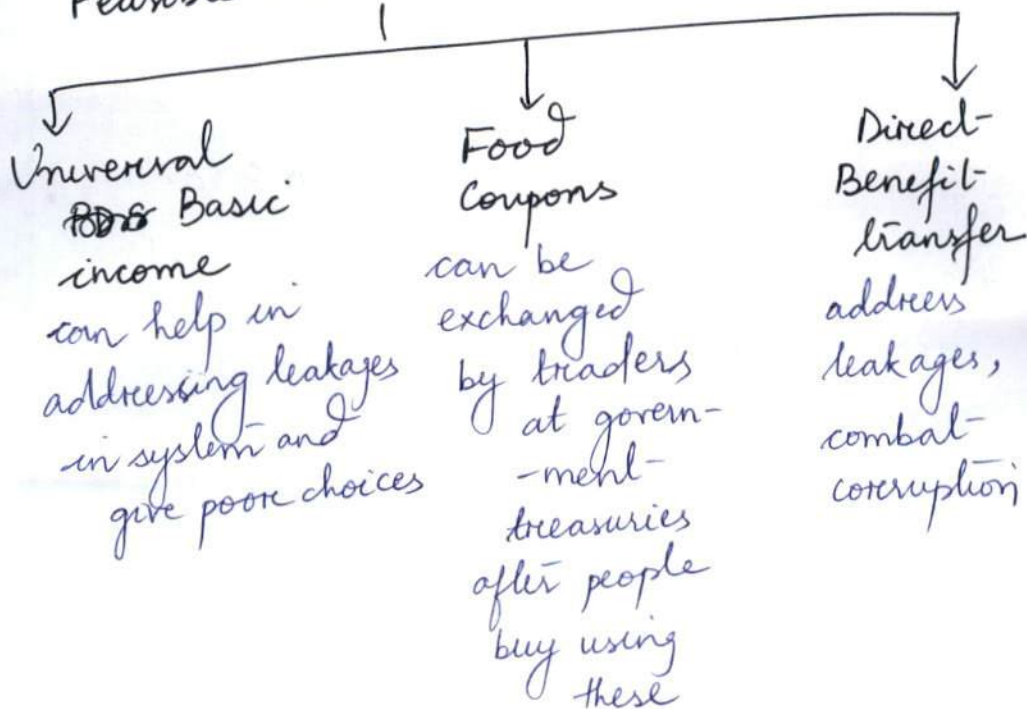
- i) Poor do not get benefitted much from it due to inclusion and exclusion errors in the list.
- ii) Prevalence of urban bias in the earlier phase in setting up of Fair Price Shops (FPS) led to exclusion of rural poor.
- iii) Huge diversion of grains from TPDS. Planning Commission pointed out nearly 54% of grain being diverted for open market-sales (2004-05)
- iv) Large scale corruption involving bureaucrats, traders.

✓) Counter-cyclical inventory management policy of Food Corporation of India (FCI) and ill-management of inventory creating inefficiency in the system.

vi) Poor are unaware when TPDS gets stocked and exhausted. Owner of fair price shops at times resort to violence if questioned and keep virtual monopoly.

vii) Aadhar seeding of Ration cards has led to cancellation of many cards because of unavailability of Aadhar affecting poorest the worst.

Feasible alternatives to TPDS



Issues:

UBI - huge subsidy hence large fiscal deficit. Prone to be spent on sun goods.

Food coupons - delay in giving food coupons can have deleterious impact on poor.

DBT - lack of financial inclusion, may leave out some, chances of irresponsible spending.

Thus TPDS can be refined by adopting certain technological solutions adopted in states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, MP etc.

- i) Aadhar seeding of ration card
- ii) Replace ration card by smart card
- iii) GI tagging of truck carrying PDS rations
- iv) SMS based information to consumers about TPDS stock renewal.

v) Grievance Redressal Mechanism.

Along with its implementation of Shanta Kumar Committee recommendation on FCI restructuring can be a game changer.