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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST-CODE : 1024)

Name of Candidate	MUKUL JAMLOKI		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	28393
Center	OLD RAJENDRA NAGAR	Date	15/09/17

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
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

1. 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)।
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI
इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. All questions are compulsory.
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. 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 that 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।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. 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

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Answer all the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS each. Content of the answers is more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks.

12.5X20=250

1. The idea of Universal Basic income has gained appeal in recent months. Enumerating the challenges in its implementation, discuss whether it can be a potent tool to reduce leakages in the system and address inequality in the economy.

   सार्वभौमिक बुनियादी आय के विचार ने हाल ही के महीनों में ध्यान आकर्षित किया है। इसके कार्यान्वयन में आने वाली चुनौतियों को सूचीबद्ध करते हुए चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या यह तंत्र (व्यवस्था) में विद्यमान कमियों को कम करने एवं अर्थव्यवस्था में असमानता को संबोधित करने का एक प्रभावी साधन बन सकती है।

The idea of a Universal Basic Income has been comprehensively discussed in the Economic Survey 2016-17. It involves three aspects:

(i) universality,

(ii) unconditionality,

(iii) agency,

According to the Tendulkar Committee report, 2012 - 22% of India still lives below the poverty line. UBI is enunciated as a potent tool to end it.

Challenges in the implementation →

(i) many people still don't have basic savings account;

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→ delinking income from work might have an adverse effect on labour productivity;

→ increase in conspicuous consumption, esp social evils like tobacco, alcohol, etc;

→ UBI shall incentivise gender disparity inside households;

→ UBI ~~sh~~ can be used as a political tool to indulge in populism;

→ need for inflation - linked otherwise it'll lose its purpose;

The positives →

- reducing misallocation of resources & exclusion errors;

- making people an agency to their

own ~~parti~~ emancipation;

- rapid poverty alleviation;

- administrative resources could be employed for more productive purposes.

On the whole, the ~~positivel~~ positives completely trump the challenges. But a complete UBI should mean cutting other subsidies of the govt. Hence, we can have gradual UBI, starting with the more marginalised sections like old aged people & women, and rectify the cons for a future full implementation.

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2. A peculiar combination of factors explain India's poor export performance in recent times. Comment. How can the Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) help in improving India's share in global trade?

हाल के दिनों में कुछ खास कारणों का एक संयोजन वस्तुतः भारत के दयनीय निर्यात प्रदर्शन की व्याख्या करता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। विदेश व्यापार नीति (2015-20) वैश्विक व्यापार में भारत की हिस्सेदारी में सुधार करने में किस प्रकार सहायता कर सकती है?

Indian exports occupy only 1.7% of global exports, and we faced a trade imbalance of $108 bn, i.e. 5% of our GDP during 2016-17.

The peculiar combination of factors that explain such a poor performance are:

→ global economic slowdown;

→ rise in protectionism, non-trade barriers, and dumping;

→ weak logistics in India;

→ low technology, hence reduced competitiveness of Indian exports;

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→ inability to forge suitable FTAs/ CEPAs/CECAs;

→ environmental/phytosanitary measures/ quality tests;

→ TBS syndrome;

→ appreciation in exchange rates;

The Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) can help in such a situation by:

→ rationalisation of export schemes, such as MEIS, SEIS, TEIS, etc;

→ exports basket diversification based on demand;

→ strengthening our capabilities & utilising leverage globally;

→ building value chains & focus on logistics;

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Some other measures:

→ GST; Make in India;

→ Bharatmala

→ Sagarmala; Digital India;

→ improving quality of power supply;

→ enabling faster WTO-RCEP-bilateral FTAs;

→ liberalising FDI;

The global economic growth is poised to be 3.8% & 3.9% in the next two FYs, which offers a window of opportunity to raise our exports to the level of 5% of the global basket.

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3. What are Advance Pricing Agreements and how are they related to Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS)? Discuss their relevance for India.

एडवांस प्राइसिंग अग्रीमेंट (अग्रिम मूल्य निर्धारण समझौते) क्या हैं और वे बेस इरोजन एंड प्रॉफिट शिफ्टिंग (BEPS) (आधार क्षरण और लाभ का स्थानांतरण) से किस प्रकार संबंधित हैं? भारत के लिए इनकी प्रासंगिकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Advance Pricing Agreements are agreements signed between the Indian tax authorities and the companies about the taxes to be paid at a pre-decided level, which is beneficial to both the parties.

The tax authorities are assured of a minimum level of tax which can help it to fight tax evasion, while the company can now boost its productivity to increase its profits by tax mitigation.

Base erosion and Profiting

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refers to the use of legal loopholes by companies to evade taxes, through instruments like round-tripping, treaty shopping, etc. It's acquired worldwide notoriety, eg. Apple's case in Ireland.

The relevance of such advance pricing agreements for India is:

→ improve the Ease of Doing Business;

→ transparency & accountability among the tax authorities;

→ tax based widens, thus more direct tax collections;

→ poverty alleviation through availability of more resources;

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→ less chances of income tax disputes, eg. Vodafone case;

→ attracting more FDI;

The APAs have today become an important instrument of tax compliance which improve the ease of doing business and help the host country/economy fulfill its tax obligations. They should be strengthened & encouraged.

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4. What is meant by public debt? Highlight the objectives of public debt management. Explain why it is considered prudent to disaggregate debt management from monetary policy and take it out of the realm of central bank.

सार्वजनिक ऋण से क्या तात्पर्य है? सार्वजनिक ऋण प्रबंधन के उद्देश्यों पर प्रकाश डालिए। व्याख्या कीजिए कि ऋण प्रबंधन को मौद्रिक नीति से पृथक करना एवं केन्द्रीय बैंक की परिधि से बाहर ले जाना विवेकपूर्ण क्यों माना जाता है।

Public debt refers to the sum of ~~liability~~ liabilities of the ~~~~ government of an economy. It consists of both external and internal debts. Traditionally, the RBI has managed the public debt in India.

The objectives of prudent public debt management are:

- maintaining credible import cover & foreign exchange reserves;
- credible sovereign credit ratings;
- ensuring safety against financial crises;

• ensuring that public debt ~~that~~ doesn't become a tool for ~~pot~~ political populism;

• ensuring synergy between public debt, economic growth and domestic inflation;

However, of late there have been scholars who have suggested to disaggregate public debt management from monetary policy:

→ the RBI acc to the new MPC framework must focus on managing economic growth & inflation;

→ FRBM legislation already dilutes political populism wrt govt spending;

→ need for counter-cyclic policies to ease deflationary pressures;

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→ the global framework evolving is suggesting divorcing debt management from monetary policy management;

India's public debt to GDP ratio is 68.2%, and is one of the least vulnerable ~~to~~ economies in the one. With the Union govt on a gradual path towards fiscal consolidation, there's a genuine argument to give it the control over public debt management.

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5. There is an urgent need for India to get infrastructure financing, however, the current investment model of PPPs is poorly designed and needs restructuring. Discuss the issues plaguing the success of PPPs with respect to stalled projects, risk management, governance & institutional capacity.

भारत को अवसंरचना वित्तपोषण प्राप्त करने की तत्काल आवश्यकता है, लेकिन सार्वजनिक निजी भागीदारी (PPPs) का वर्तमान निवेश मॉडल असंतोषजनक रूप से डिजाईन (अभिकल्पित) किया गया है और इसे पुनर्संरचित करने की आवश्यकता है। अवरुद्ध परियोजनाओं, जोखिम प्रबंधन, गवर्नेंस (शासन) एवं संस्थागत क्षमता के संबंध में PPPs की सफलता में बाधक बने मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

"You and I come from Rail and Road,
But Economists travel by Infrastructure."
— Margaret Thatcher

The above quote amply signifies the importance of suitable, quality and accessible infrastructure for economic growth. In the Budget 2017-18, GoI has allocated Rs 3,96,000 crores to the infra sector, but it's woefully inadequate as India needs funds worth $1.5 trillion till 2030, for producing quality infra to sustain the economic growth.

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The issues facing the current investment models of PPPs such as EPC, BoT, etc. are:

→ delays in land acquistion & environmental clearances;

→ TBS syndrome;

→ technology constraints;

→ confrontation b/w jurisdiction & authorities;

→ impediments to ease of doing business due to lack of transparency & accountability;

The solutions can be:

→ liberalising FDI;

→ hybrid annuity model;

→ implementing Kelkar committee report : special institute for R&D, dispute resolution, SIA & EIA assessments, etc ;

→ long term finance banking;

→ recapitalisation of PSBs;

→ multi-agency & multi-govt consultations;

→ improving the ease of Doing Business;

A revitalised investment model of PPPs can help India achieve its potential of 10% annual growth in the medium term.

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6. What are the reasons behind a low tax base in India? Discuss the issues associated with it and the steps required to widen the tax base.

भारत में निम्नस्तरीय कर आधार के क्या कारण हैं? इससे संबद्ध मुद्दों एवं कर आधार को विस्तारित करने के लिए आवश्यक क़दमों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

According to the latest data, only 7 out of 100 voters pay income tax in India. The tax to GDP ratio of 11.3% in India is very low as compared to its emerging market peers (16.6%) and OECD economies (22%).

The reasons behind a low tax base in India are:

→ complex tax laws that deter tax compliance;

→ inadequate state capacity to undertake effective taxation;

→ corruption and lack of transparency & accountability;

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→ political populism, such as keeping the threshold limit of individual income tax very low

→ not utilising tax avenues properly, eg. house tax (property tax);

→ tax evasion through utilising ~~tax~~ legal loopholes;

→ trust deficit b/w the citizens & the state;

The steps required to widen the tax base in India are:

→ simplify tax laws and ensure tax compliance, eg. GST;

→ develop adequate state capacity & strengthen it, while maintaining a system of checks & balances;

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→ using non-conventional tax avenues properly like property tax;

→ strict action against tax evaders, shell companies;

→ incentives for honest taxmen and honest tax payers;

→ rejecting political populism;

→ bridge trust deficit b/w citizens & state;

The implementation of the above suggestions must be carried out ~~of~~ on a war scale to enable poverty alleviation & high levels of economic growth in India.

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7. Even though the construction sector has significant multiplier effect on the economy, in recent years, it has been showing signs of stress. What are the causes for such a state of affairs? In this context, also highlight the steps taken by the government.

यद्यपि निर्माण क्षेत्रक का अर्थव्यवस्था पर महत्वपूर्ण गुणक प्रभाव होता है, लेकिन हाल के वर्षों में यह दबाव के लक्षण दर्शाता रहा है। इस प्रकार की स्थिति के लिए कौन-से कारण जिम्मेदार हैं? इस संदर्भ में, सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

The Construction sector has a significant multiplier effect on the economy bcz of its ~~sign~~ multiple forward & backward linkages, labour - intensive nature, and convergence with other sectors such as electricity / energy, ~~transport~~ communications, transport, housing, etc.

However, in recent years, it has been showing signs of stress, bcz:

- TBS syndrome;
- Demonetisation;

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- delays in land acquisition & environmental clearances;
- administrative apathy due to corruption & lack of transparency & accountability;
- lack of pvt finance, technology, management;
- lack of FDI;
- GST;
- ambivalence in public sector regarding pvt sector participation;

However, the govt has taken a no. of steps in this regard:

- Rs 3.96 lakh crore allocated to infrastructure sector in Budget 2017-18;
- Real Estate (Regulation & Dev) Act, 2016;

- Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)
- Infrastructure Investment Trusts;
- liberalising FDI; BHARATMALA; SAGARMALA;
- recapitalisation of PSBs under Mission Indradhanush; Setu Bharatam;
- PM Awas Yojana, Smart Cities Mission, Swachha Bharat Mission (Urban & Rural), MGNREGS, AMRUT, HRIDAY, etc

It's the construction sector that'll build bridges on which India can ~~achieve~~ walk a high-level sustainable growth trajectory. Hence focus must be also to revitalise PPP according to Kelkar committee report.

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8. The worsening road safety situation in India is further complicated by an increasing population and proliferation of vehicles on the road. Discuss. Also, highlight the steps that are being taken by the government to address the issue of road safety and reduce the associated fatalities.

भारत में सड़क सुरक्षा की बिगड़ती स्थिति, बढ़ती जनसंख्या और सड़क पर वाहनों की संख्या में बढ़ोत्तरी के कारण और अधिक जटिल हो जाती है। चर्चा कीजिए। सरकार द्वारा सड़क सुरक्षा के मुद्दों से निपटने एवं इनसे संबद्ध मृत्यु की घटनाओं को कम करने हेतु उठाए जा रहे कदमों पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

The worsening road safety situation in the county is illustrated amply by the following statistics →

- 17 deaths due to road mishaps per hour, 2016
- 55 road accidents per hour, 2016
- 1.5 lakh fatalities in road accidents in 2016, an increase of 3.3%.

The above stats have been released by the Union Ministry of Road Transport. The causes behind ~~these~~ this grim situation are:

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- during 2005-15, pvt vehicle registration have increased by 10%, while road lengths have increased by only 3.75%;
- decrease in public transportation facilities;
- decrease in freight traffic → more congestion on roads;
- the National Highways are overburdened;
- poor quality of material used in construction;
- poor quality of drivers, who get DLs made through bribes;
- disregard to scientific methodology while planning roads & traffic signals

According to World Bank, since 76.3% fatalities are in the age group 18-35, the road accidents in India cause a loss of up to 3% of GDP to India's economic growth every year.

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→ Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act;

→ augmentation of national highways

→ PM Gram Sadak Yojana;

→ Bharatmala;

→ Setu Bharatam;

→ strict implementation of traffic laws;

→ stringent supervision & auditing of materials used for ~~military~~ construction

The Union govt has allocated 25% of the total budget of transport sector (Rs 2.41 lakh crore) to upgrade roads but more needs to be done quickly to prevent loss of productive resources.

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9. Briefly highlight the parameters used by the government to determine the extent of poverty in India. Examine the relationship of economic growth and poverty alleviation in the post-reforms era.

सरकार द्वारा भारत में निर्धनता की सीमा का निर्धारण करने हेतु उपयोग किए जाने वाले मानदंडों (पैरामीटर) पर संक्षेप में प्रकाश डालिए। आर्थिक सुधारों के बाद के युग में आर्थिक संवृद्धि और निर्धनता उन्मूलन के बीच संबंध का परीक्षण कीजिए।

According to official estimates, there were 70% people living below the poverty line at the time of independence. Since then, govt has used NSSO data to determine the extent of poverty in India.

The expert committees set up evaluate the periodic NSSO data to give a economic figure to the poverty line - the Alagh committee, the Tendulkar, and the Rangarajan committees. Currently, according to the Tendulkar committee, 22% people are BPL in India (NSSO, 2011-12).

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The Tendulkar committee used consumption & expenditure data of households to determine the following figures:

- urban → Rs 1000 per month per individual
- rural → Rs 810 per month per individual

The recently conducted Socio-economic and Caste Census has enumerated poverty on the basis of seven different deprivations such as ~~too~~ pucca house, literacy, etc. It's more suitable in the Indian context.

The relationship between economic growth and poverty alleviation in post-reforms era:

- overall levels of poverty declined, but inequality increased; Oxfam report: 1% Indians at top have 58% of

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total economic wealth;

- region-wise disparities in poverty reduction; peninsular states are better off than northern & eastern states;

- trickle-down theory model has failed;

- per capita income has risen more than 200 times but men have 4 times incomes as to women;

- rise in informal labour has exacerbated the problem, bcz catastrophic health emergencies, or social obligations, or economic distress often push the family BPL;

There's need to target govt subsidies using SECC data & have an economic growth which is more ~~equal~~ equal, esp gender-wise.

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10. Explain why the government has adopted the HELP in place of the NELP that was existing for almost a decade. Also discuss how HELP has the potential to transform India's E&P activities with special emphasis on non-conventional sources of energy.

व्याख्या कीजिए कि सरकार ने लगभग एक दशक से विद्यमान NELP के स्थान पर HELP को क्यों अपनाया है? साथ ही, ऊर्जा के गैर-परम्परागत स्रोतों पर विशेष जोर देते हुए चर्चा कीजिए कि HELP में भारत की E&P (अन्वेषण एवं उत्पादन) गतिविधियों को रूपांतरित करने की क्षमता किस प्रकार विद्यमान है।

India today imports 80% and 40% of its crude oil & natural gas requirements respectively. This rise in the import bill has been due to declining production from the small & marginal oil fields in India, esp the onshore ones. This happened because NELP had many restrictions, wasn't market friendly & couldn't attract much investments.

The Hydrocarbons Exploration Licensing Policy adopted by the govt recently overcomes the limitations of NELP by:

- revenue sharing model, hence increased govt's facilitatory help;
- National Data Repository shall provide high quality data;
- open acreage policy;
- one single license for all hydrocarbons;
- marketing & selling freedom for production from small & marginal blocks;

This market friendly policy can attract investments at a time when the govt has scarcity of funds.

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HELP's impact on non-conventional sources of energy:

→ ~~coalbed~~ shale gas;

→ gas hydrates;

→ coalbed methane;

The above non-conventional sources can now be extracted because of the uniform licensing policy. It'd help reduce our energy import bill to Rs 10,000 crore by 2020, as envisaged in budget 2017-18.

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11. Successive governments have resorted to disinvestment of sick and loss-making PSUs. What, according to you, are the targets which the government seek to meet from this exercise? Also explain why the disinvestment targets have not been met in the past.

क्रमागत सरकारों ने बीमार और घाटे में चल रहे PSUs के विनिवेश का सहारा लिया है। आपके अनुसार, इस कार्यकरण से सरकार कौन-से लक्ष्य प्राप्त करना चाहती है? साथ ही, व्याख्या कीजिए कि विगत वर्षों में विनिवेश के लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त क्यों नहीं किया गया है।

Disinvestment refers to the dilution of a share of stock of a CPSE by the govt. When the govt's stake falls below 51%, it's called strategic disinvestment. In 2016-17, some 200 CPSEs have posted a combined profit of Rs 1.4 billion, while another 60-odd CPSEs have posted a combined loss of Rs 247 billion, and hence ~~the~~ some of them are ideally suited for disinvestment.

Targets of disinvestment exercise:

- prudent fiscal management;
- prudent public debt management;

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- utilising govt resources in the most productive enterprises;
- bringing efficiency & competition in the market;
- lowering PSBs debt sheets;
- bringing pvt finance, technology, HR/ management;
- labour efficiency & re-skilling;

The govt set a target of Rs 56.5 thousand crores divestment during 2016-17, and it could achieve only Rs 46.5 k crores, which included spectrum auction fees also. The reasons for the failures are:

- setting too ambitious target;
- ambivalence about private sector;
- not going for strategic sale, which can really attract pvt investments;

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- Chakravyuha challenge of Indian economy;
- inadequate inter-agency coordination;

~~Direct~~ Disinvestment is an important economic exercise to increase economic growth by bringing efficiency & competition. The DIPAM must focus on the target of Rs 72500 crores set for 2017-18 through a multistakeholder consensus process to get positive results;

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12. What is hydroponics? Discuss its relevance in light of limited land availability while ensuring food security.

हाइड्रोपोनिक्स (hydroponics) क्या है? सीमित भूमि उपलब्धता की दृष्टि से खाद्य सुरक्षा को सुनिश्चित करने हेतु इसकी प्रासंगिकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Hydroponics refers to growing of crops in soil inundated by water. Given the risks to ~~cli~~ agriculture because of climate change, it can be of great significance in 21st century.

→ resistant against climate vagaries of intense rainfall & floods, eg. Bihar, Assam, etc

→ reduce pressure on land, eg. Delhi, Mumbai;

→ adequate use of wetlands, at the same time ensuring conservation of wetlands;

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→ utilise delta plains, river flood plains;

→ can be used in consonance with aquaculture to diversify farmer's incomes & nutrition supplements;

→ no adverse effect on ground water tables or leaching of hazardous chemical fertiliser;

→ integrated farm management;

The technique should be encouraged through active pvt sector collaboration via finance, technology & skilled manpower. National Action Plan on Agriculture, NAP on Sustainable

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Ecosystem & NAP on Water can converge to explore & tap the true potential of hydroponics.

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13. It is argued by many that there is an urgent need for states to reform land laws and, in particular, tenancy laws. What are the factors cited for the need of such reforms? Identify the impediments in the way of such reforms and highlight the benefits that would accrue from them.

कई लोगों द्वारा यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि राज्यों को भूमि कानूनों, विशेष रूप से काश्तकारी (tenancy) कानूनों में सुधार करने की तत्काल आवश्यकता है। इस प्रकार के सुधारों की आवश्यकता के लिए कौन-से कारकों को उद्धृत किया जाता है? ऐसे सुधारों के मार्ग में आने वाली बाधाओं की पहचान कीजिए एवं इनसे प्राप्त होने वाले लाभों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

72% of landholdings in India belong to those of small & marginal farmers. They neither can invest in mechanisation, nor can indulge in commercial cultivation. As a result, there's an urgent need to reform land laws.

The land laws suggested are:

- contract farming;
- tenancy acts;
- consolidation of landholdings;

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Impediments:

- lack of political & bureaucratic will;
- complex caste & religious mix that makes it too ambitious a political call;
- lack of digitisation of land records;
- regional diversities, hence a bottom-up approach required ideally;
- land & agriculture are a state subject and weak cooperative federalism;

The benefits that'd accrue from these reforms are:

→ ability to indulge in extensive commercial cultivation;

- mechanisation of farms;
- better efficiency of irrigation, fertilisers;
- crop & livestock diversification;
- income & nutritional security against vagaries of nature;
- potential of agro forestry, mixed farming, Integrated Farm Management;

The Union must hold a multistakeholders consensus process with the States, similar to GST council, to undertake these pioneering reforms.

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14. Discuss the potential of horticulture sector in realizing the government's vision of doubling the farm income. Also, highlight the challenges which are needed to be addressed for realizing full potential of this sector.

कृषि आय को दोगुना करने की सरकार की परिकल्पना को साकार करने में बागवानी (हॉर्टिकल्चर) क्षेत्रक की क्षमता पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इस क्षेत्रक की सम्पूर्ण क्षमता को वास्तविकता में परिणत करने के लिए उन चुनौतियों पर भी प्रकाश डालिए जिनसे निपटना आवश्यक है।

The Horticulture sector promises a huge untapped potential to realise govt's vision of doubling farm incomes because its products command one of the best prices in both domestic & int'l markets, and adequate policy support can help this sector achieve new heights.

- the area under horticulture has increased by 10% in the last five years ~~and~~ as compared to 6% in food crops;
- its production growth is 6% per annum
- its acreage growth is 3.1% per annum;

Challenges realised in this sector:

- perishable nature of commodities, hence risks to market fluctuations/prices;
- access to formal credit;
- access to technology & seeds, tissues, saplings;
- adequate marketing & organised retail;
- competition with food grain crops wrt remuneration;
- lack of clear Agri export policy;
- food quality standards wrt Codex;
- logistics infra;

To address the challenges, govt has taken the following steps:

- Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) →

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to give access to tech, finance, seeds/tissues/saplings;

- cold chains & good infra modernisation;
- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana to boost organic cultivation;
- Soil Health Cards;
- Integrated Nutrient Management;
- Integrated Pest Management

The sector can be further harnessed by ~~evolving~~ conceiving an ambitious AgriTrade export policy to ~~give~~ incentivise farmers and also denotify perishables from APMCs.

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15. Not only does the yield (measured in tonnes/ha.) of a crop but a number of other factors determine the choice of crops that a farmer cultivates. Elaborate with special focus on cropping pattern in India.

एक किसान द्वारा उपजाई जाने वाली फसलों के चयन को न केवल फसल की उपज (टन/हेक्टेयर में मापी गयी) अपितु कई अन्य कारक भी निर्धारित करते हैं। भारत में प्रचलित फसल प्रतिरूपों (पैटर्न) पर विशेष ध्यान केन्द्रित करते हुए विस्तारपूर्वक व्याख्या कीजिए।

Cropping pattern refers to the system of crops & land fallow at a particular instance of time/season. It is affected by seasons, particularly the kharif (summer) & rabi (winter) in India.

Traditionally, the yield of a crop was the prime factor in selection of crop choices during the medieval ages when the population to land ratio was very high. But during colonial rule and since independence, a plethora of other factors work in combination in

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choice of crops that the farmer cultivates.

(i) MSPs → incentivises cereal production like rice, wheat, etc.

(ii) availability of irrigation → incentivises crops like sugarcane, cotton;

(iii) fertile alluvial → jute
black soil → cotton
∴ soil conditions

(iv) commercialisation / market potential, eg. cotton, silk, pulses; oilseeds;

(v) crop rotation to conserve soil fertility, eg. pulses

(vi) organic farming, eg. fruits & vegetables

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(vii) rainfall patterns →

- dryland → millets
- uplands → paddy

(viii) availability of credit → intercropping or mixed cropping

(ix) past prices, which leads to supply & demand fluctuations; eg. onions

(x) availability of inputs like seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, etc

There's a definite argument for making available to farmers all over India all the basic inputs for farming & giving clear price & policy signals so that his/her labour fetches adequate remunerative prices.

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16. Discuss the significance of food processing industry in the economic development of the country and the challenges which need to be tackled for sustained growth of the industry. Also elaborate on the the salient features of National Mission on Food Processing.

देश के आर्थिक विकास में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग के महत्व के साथ-साथ उन चुनौतियों की भी चर्चा कीजिए जिनसे निपटना इस उद्योग के संधारणीय विकास हेतु आवश्यक है। राष्ट्रीय खाद्य प्रसंस्करण मिशन की प्रमुख विशेषताओं की विस्तारपूर्वक व्याख्या कीजिए।

The food processing industry is still a 'sunrise' sector in India, given its untapped potential and the gradual realisation among policy makers, pvt enterprises & farmers about the different ways through which potential can be sustainably tapped.

The significance of the food processing industry are:

· job creation → millions of direct & indirect;

· rising purchasing power, new food tastes, etc promise huge avenues for growth;

· abundance of different varieties of raw

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materials due to different agroclimatic zones in India;

- can be a great foreign exchange earner if the produce is adequately marketed abroad;
- poverty alleviation, doubling farm incomes, reducing regional disparities in farm incomes, Sustainable development, etc can all be accomplished through harnessing this industry;
- forward & backward linkages can also revitalise PPPs;

The challenges are:

- access to formal credit, technology, skilled manpower;
- lack of organized retail & marketing linkages;
- absence of clear price & policy signals;

- invasion of globalisation → fast food culture like Chinese, Italian, Spanish;
- ambivalence about pvt sector participation;
- TBS & GST;

To give a big impetus to the food processing sector, the National Mission on Food Processing has been launched.

→ liberalising ~~for~~ FDI in food retail;

→ Agroexport zones;

→ ~~Mission for~~ cold chains & modernisation of abbatoirs;

→ credit facilities;

→ access to technology & skilled personnel

Food processing offers not just a valuable domestic, but an invaluable global opportunity to increase India's exports to 5% of global basket.

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17. Financial support to farmers through various instruments has been a crucial aspect of agricultural policy of the government. Examine whether the proposal of moving towards direct transfer of benefits and universal crop insurance would alleviate the existing concerns in the current scenario.

विभिन्न साधनों के माध्यम से किसानों को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करना सरकार की कृषि नीति का एक महत्वपूर्ण पहलू रहा है। परीक्षण कीजिए कि क्या प्रत्यक्ष लाभ अंतरण और सार्वभौमिक फसल बीमा की ओर कदम बढ़ाने का प्रस्ताव वर्तमान परिदृश्य में विद्यमान चिंताओं को कम कर पाएगा?

"The Indian economy is a gamble in the rains". Therefore, agriculture & the allied sector which employs more than 50% of the total workforce are exposed vulnerable to the vagaries of nature, and inefficient market dynamics. As a result, financial support to farmers is given through various instruments like:

→ MSPs;

→ subsidy in fertilisers such as urea;

→ crop insurance, like PMFBY, NAIS, MNAIS etc.

However, the above measures have bore only mixed results;

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→ corruption & leakages;

→ misallocation of resources;

→ exclusion errors; eg. crop insurance

→ problems of exit, eg. fertiliser plants

→ harmful effects to ~~environment~~ soil, eg. urea subsidy

→ decrease in water tables, eg. MSPs for cereal crops;

Looking at and analysing the good & the bad effects of the above policy measures, there are a no. of proposals from scholars, economists & farmers' groups to move towards ~~direct~~ DBT & universal crop insurance.

→ benefit the small & marginalised farmers instead of the rich & non-needy ones;

→ demand based subsidies/help instead of supply based;

→ prevent black-marketeering & corruption;

→ prevent wastage of resources, eg. water in paddy irrigation

→ making farmers an agency in their own emancipation, i.e. bottom-up approach not hand-down approach;

According to Economic Survey, only 25% of the Rs 70,000 crore annual urea (fertiliser) subsidy of GoI reaches the farmers actually in need. It's high time to use DBT-JAM to plug leakages & improve efficiencies, at least in the CSS.

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18. Buffer stocking of food grains is seen as a vehicle to deliver strategic food and agricultural domestic support policies, however, there is a growing consensus that the programme has been not just costly but also imprudently wasteful. Critically evaluate.

खाद्यानों के सुरक्षित भंडारण (बफर स्टॉकिंग) को खाद्य एवं कृषि संबंधी रणनीतिक घरेलू समर्थन नीतियाँ प्रदान करने के साधन के रूप में देखा गया है, लेकिन इस संबंध में यह मतैक्य बनता जा रहा है कि यह कार्यक्रम न केवल महँगा बल्कि अविवेकपूर्ण रूप से अपव्ययी भी रहा है। आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Buffer stocking of food grains by the Food Corporation of India is done to accomplish the following purposes:

- ensure accessibility /affordability /availability of food to marginalised sections;
- national food security
- remunerative MSPs ~~by~~ to the farmers;

The system has been appreciated by UNDP bcz it enhances human rights, helps people during times of distress such as disasters/famines, poverty alleviation and boosts rural consumption through enhancing farmers' purchasing power.

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However, economists have critiqued the buffer stocking mechanism.

→ MSPs promote intensive cultivation of cereal crops which is unsustainable & damages environment;

→ Food security needs don't require as much buffer storage as pre-1991 bcz of diversification of food basket;

→ corruption, leakages and misallocation of resources;

→ inefficient TPDS system in most states;

→ due to lack of quality logistics n/w, the system doesn't work properly

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There's a need to improve the existing Buffer stocking of food grains through:

→ pulses & oilseeds needs to be incorporated in more proportion;

→ improve logistics;

→ using DBT-JAM;

→ better & efficient TPDS, eg. Chattisgarh model

→ rationalising MSPs

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19. Discuss the lacunae in implementation of Minimum Wages Act in ensuring the welfare of agricultural labour. Also, suggest some other measures to improve the situation of agricultural labourers in the country.

कृषि श्रमिकों के कल्याण को सुनिश्चित करने की दिशा में न्यूनतम मजदूरी अधिनियम के कार्यान्वयन में विद्यमान कमियों पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, देश में कृषि मजदूरों की स्थिति सुधारने हेतु कुछ अन्य उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

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20. In spite of having the world's largest livestock population in India, the potential of animal rearing remains underutilized. In this context, discuss the challenges faced by the meat and poultry sector and suggest measures for accelerated and sustained growth for this sector.

भारत में विश्व की सर्वाधिक पशुधन संख्या होने के बावजूद भी पशुपालन क्षमता का पूर्ण दोहन नहीं किया जा सका है। इस संदर्भ में मांस तथा कुक्कुट क्षेत्रक द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों की चर्चा कीजिए एवं इस क्षेत्रक की त्वरित एवं संधारणीय वृद्धि के लिए उपाय सुझाइए।

Mixed farming with the help of the world's largest livestock population provides security of incomes to the farmers and takes care of their nutritional needs. However, there are a plethora of challenges faced by the meat and poultry sector that render the potential of animal rearing in India, underutilised.

→ lack of access to formal credit to make long term investments;

→ lack of technology to utilise livestock resource agronomically;

→ poor health of livestock & yield;

→ lack of access to marketing & organised retail due to absence of value chains;

→ restrictions on interstate trade, bcz of archaic livestock trading laws which subject them to price risks;

→ social orthodoxy such as cow vigilantism;

→ poor transport infrastructure;

The measures for accelerated and sustained growth for this sector:

→ relaxing trading norms, thus allowing interstate trade & freedom to sell produce to anyone;

→ formal credit for long term investment;

→ developing cold chains for protection against fluctuations in demand & supply;

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→ spread of technology among ~~fa~~ farmers;

→ vaccinations & medical care for livestock;

→ developing logistics infra;

→ modernisation of abattoirs;

→ quality testing standards according to CODEX to boost exports.

We need an unambiguous Agri-Trade policy to boost domestic consumption & export of meat & poultry to ensure remunerative prices for farmers & rapid poverty alleviation.

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