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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2085)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	Eng	Registration Number	1065392
Center	Jaipur	Date	25/08/23

INDEX TABLE		
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
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16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**.
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
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 than the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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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. The Pala Empire is known for a distinctive form of Buddhist art. In this context, discuss the contributions made by the Pala dynasty towards art. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Pala Empire ruled during early medieval period over West Bengal, Odhisha and parts of Bengal.

Palas were the last major patrons of Buddhism and Buddhism saw a revival -

1. Pala Emperors gave patronage for revival of Buddhist universities of Nalanda and founded new ones like Vikramshila & Odantapuri.
2. Palas adopted Patna art of painting for Court art.
3. Famous statues of Buddhist Bodhisattvas of Alankitashvara and Rishabha.
4. Royal funding to Buddhist universities lead led to

development of artisanal towns around centres.

5. Accounts of foreign travellers
6. Patronage to development of Stupas with elaborate viharas and chaityas. Eg: Hathigumpha caves were revived.
7. Growth of tantricism and Bhakti cult of Shakti goddess Tara in Buddhism.
8. Coins with symbols and images of Buddha.
9. Bronze sculptures and statues

therefore, Pala was the last major dynasty to adopt & promote Buddhism.

2. It was Adi Shankaracharya's genius that reinvented Hinduism and re-established the Vedic tradition with excellent commentaries. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words)

10

Adi Shankaracharya's philosophy of Advaita Vedanta gave a renewed understanding of Vedic scriptures and purified Hinduism of dogmas.

Renewed Hinduism -

1. Shankaracharya's philosophy of unqualified Brahman as the ultimate reality gave way for monothism and monistic interpretation of Vedic tradition.
2. Shankaracharya rid Hinduism of dogmatic & ritualism and gave importance to logic & knowledge - Jnana marg for liberation.

3. Vedanta philosophy also started Bhakti tradition and emphasized on importance of self-effort for liberation.

Re-established vedic traditions -

1. Shankaracharya gave logical relation b/w Vedic explanation of creation with the emphasis on Brahman as ultimate truth and world as naya.
2. Vedanta philosophy challenged popularity of Buddhist and Jain traditions by giving similar unorthodox interpretation.
3. He emphasized the need of individual effort & eliminated monopoly of priests.

Therefore, Shankara began a renaissance of knowledge.

3. The colonial forest policies were driven by the needs of the British Empire with no concern for the well-being of the locals and the environment. Discuss in the context of India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

British were the first to initiate through legislations, the regulation of forests & extraction of forest produce & timber.

Policies & laws passed by British-

1. Forest Rights Act. 1881 was the first legislation which debarred traditionally forest dwelling communities and tribals from entry into forests.
2. Tribals were prohibited from using minor forest produce & could not use the timber.
3. Tribals were deprived for their habitat and were

displaced without compensation & rehabilitation.

4. Regulations passed by British allowed plantations to clear forests for commercial production of coffee, rubber & tea.
5. It gave sole rights over forest, timber & produce to British.
6. It allowed non-tribals to buy land and lend money to tribals which perpetuated their exploitation.

These oppressions also led to several tribal movements, the Santal Revolution was successful & British were forced to pass a law to restore land to tribals & grant them rights.

4. The principles of Panchsheel and Non-Alignment aided India in maneuvering the Cold War era. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Post Independence, India was posed with a dilemma in her foreign policy which resulted in Non-Alignment doctrine by Jawaharlal Nehru & Panchsheel guidelines to opt for non-alliance with either of the rival superpowers.

1. Non-Alignment Movement began with the NAM international conference in Bandung where Tito of Yugoslavia, Nasser of Egypt and Nehru from India began the movement.
2. NAM helped India exercise sovereignty was not allying with either of the major blocs during cold war.

3. It stood for independence of developing countries against colonialism and abolition of apartheid.
4. It protected India from bec becoming a pawn of either USA or USSR and taking major internal & external decisions on her own.
5. Pansheel Pact signed with China in 1952 called for non-interference in each others territories, peace and mutual respect.
6. Panchsheel supported peaceful dispute resolution,

Therefore, India was able to make her independent decisions & retain integrity while aspiring for global leadership.

5. One of the major features of the 19th century Europe was the struggle for national unification. Discuss in the context of Germany. (Answer in 150 words) 10

During Early 19th CE, Europe was undergoing frequent boundary changes and national unification of Italy and Germany.

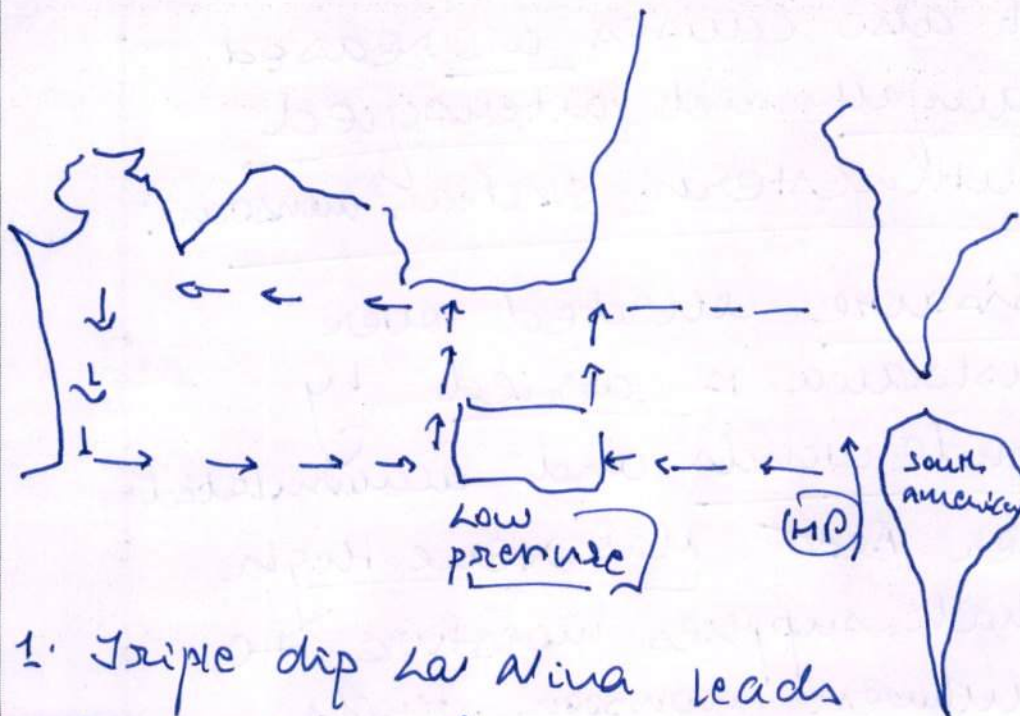
National unification struggle of Germany -

1. Germany was an amalgamation of over 200 small kingdoms subsumed loosely under empires of Prussia and Austria-Hungary.
2. Bismark was the father of German unification, called for implementation of his "policy of Blood and Iron."

3. Bismark convinced Emperor of Prussia to enter diplomatic relations with smaller empires and initiated unification with a unified market and opening of borders for trade.
 4. German unification was crucial to consolidate German resources and Bismark took the help of Prussian glory of the ruling dynasty and pride for the language which was a unifying symbol.
 5. Unification involved several battles & subduction of Austro-Hungarian hold of the Parliament.
- therefore, unification was successful in consolidating Germany as a major power.

6. What is the triple dip La Niña phenomenon? Discuss its likely impact on different regions of the world. (Answer in 150 words) 10

La Niña is the strengthening of the Cold Peruvian current over the west Pacific region. Triple dip La Niña is a further intensified La Niña phenomena which results in significant weather phenomena -



1. Triple dip La Niña leads to increased upwelling of cold water across South America

west coast which leads to dry conditions & drought.

2. It benefits fisheries immensely as upwelling leads to increase in nutrients.
3. It leads to increased rainfall over Australia due to intensified low pressure and increased supply of moisture.
4. It also causes increased rainfall and intensified Southwestern Indian monsoon.
5. Moisture collected over Australia is carried by trade winds and accumulated over ~~near~~ Mascarene High which supplies moisture to southwest monsoon winds.

Therefore, triple dip la Nina has impacts on weather, economy & fishing

7. Hydropower is a major source of low-carbon energy supply across the world but its share in India's total electricity generation remains low. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words)

10

Hydropower refers to renewable energy generation through either small capacity dams or large hydro projects over rivers. Hydropower forms 15% of India's installed capacity according to MNRE Report, 2023.

Energy generation through Hydropower:

1. India has several major dams over Himalayan & Peninsular rivers Eg: Indira sagar and Marmada River Project. Gond Ballabh Pant Hydropower Plant is crucial for supplying both energy & irrigation to farmers in Chotanagpur region.

Reasons for low share of hydropower -

1. Lack of budgetary allocation and funds as hydropower projects require high initial investments.
2. Environmental clearances & acquisition of land delays - hydro projects require huge areas and often forests have to be cleared which requires tedious process of clearances.
3. Lack of private sector participation.
4. Displacement of tribals.
5. No National Policy and single window mechanism.

Therefore to achieve its target of 176.5 GW by hydropower, India needs to streamline infrastructure

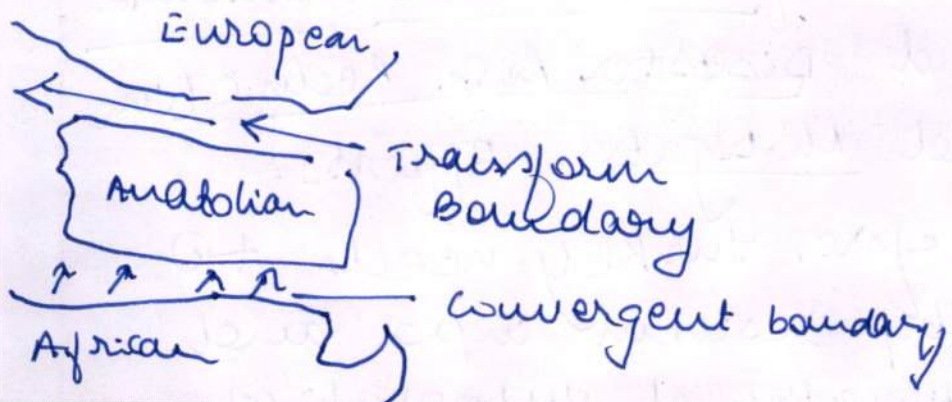
8. Explain the concept of seismic gap in the context of the recent earthquake in Turkey. Also, enlist the reasons behind the severity of the earthquake. (Answer in 150 words)

10

Turkey is located on tectonically sensitive area and suffers major earthquakes due to plate boundaries of the Anatolian plate, Eurasian plate, and African plate.

Seismic Gap of the Anatolian plate -

1. Turkey is located on the minor plate which forms a transform boundary with Eurasian plate which resulted in the recent earthquake



2. Seismic gap causes entanglement of plate margins which resist against each other until the pressure is released causing a shallow focus of Earthquake which is more destructive.

Reasons for severity -

1. Shallow focus of Earthquake
2. Multiple tremors due to continued pushing against margins.
3. Presence of multiple plate boundaries.
4. Lack of resilient infrastructure and Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation Efforts.

Therefore, Turkey needs to develop resilient infra and identification of vulnerability.

9. Highlighting the recent trends in marriages in India, explain why the legal backing of same-sex marriage is being termed as an issue of seminal importance. (Answer in 150 words)

10

Recently supreme court passed a judgement on validity of same-sex marriages and asked the parliament to initiate drafting of guidelines & ponder the possibility of amendment in special Marriage Act.

Recent trends in marriages -

1. Marriage as an institution has undergone several changes due to urbanisation, globalisation and modernisation.
2. Increased live-in relationships
3. Increase in inter-caste and inter-religious marriages.
4. Significant independence of youth in choosing partners.

Legal backing of same-sex marriages -

1. After abolition of sec 377 of IPC, Supreme Court through Naveen Singh Johar case made same sex relations decriminalised.
2. Next logical step in progression is recognition to same sex marriages as marriage governs several spousal rights & safeguards like division of property, maintenance etc.
3. Supreme Court exercised Judicial restraint as it is the duty of Parliament to frame laws for Equality of all citizens. Therefore, Parliament should conduct research about willingness of Indian society balanced with equal rights of LGBTQ.

10. Considering the multiplicity of factors affecting the mental well-being in an inter-connected world, discuss the various challenges in achieving sound mental healthcare. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Mental health is as crucial as physical wellbeing as according to WHO data 40% of the global population suffers from some form of mental illness.

Multiplicity of factors affecting mental well-being -

1. With increased globalisation & IT revolution with growth of internet and social media, the world is as closely interconnected as ever.
2. People are exposed to huge amounts of data and bombarded with information.
3. Presence of social media & online relations has led to

physical isolation & loneliness.

4. However, internet has also helped in spreading awareness and networking for therapy.

Challenges in achieving sound mental healthcare -

1. Lack of awareness and social stigma about mental health.
2. Lack of public expenditure on mental healthcare.
3. Lack of professionals and staff, counselling centres etc.
4. Denial of significance of treating mental illnesses.

Therefore, initiatives like Tele Manas of Indian govt to provide free counselling 24/7 will go a long way.

11. Elaborate upon the major numismatic stages in India from the ancient to modern times. Also, discuss how the study of coins helps in understanding history. (Answer in 250 words)

15

Numismatics is the study of coinage across dynasties and time periods as a source of history to understand conditions of trade, growth of economy, uniformity and expansion of empire.

major stages in India from ancient to modern times:

1. First coins appeared in 324 BCE under the Mauryan Empire: Chandragupta Maurya had silver punch-marked coins called panna.
2. Coins were minted in number during mahajanpadas and circulation of Panna was

that extensive.

3. First gold coins were released by Kushana Empire and other Indo-Greek dynasties of Sakas over Western and North-western India.
4. These gold coins had elaborate images of the king and also of various Hindu gods like Vishnu.
5. Gupta Empire was the last major Empire to issue gold coins which were the best in quality and covered most of North Indian subcontinent.
6. During the Medieval Era, different dynasties like Pallavas and Rashtrakutas

started extensive minting of
silver coins over Deccan &
South India.

7. Sultanate and Mughal period
saw fall in intrinsic value
of coins and coins were
made of copper, silver etc.

→ Mohd. Bin Tughlag tried to
bring token currency during
1100A.

8. The British uniformed minting
and circulation of currency
over India.

Study of coins helps history—

- i> source of prosperity of empires
- ii> understand trade relations b/w
Empires and level of commerce

Therefore, numismatics is
important source of study of
history.

12. Despite being celebrated as the champion of Dalit rights, the contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar went far beyond that and encompassed a wide range of issues. Elaborate. (Answer in 250 words)

15

BR Ambedkar is the father of India Constitution and the champion of Dalit rights and affirmative action in India—

i> He spread awareness and mobilised dalits through his organisation - Bahishkt satkarni sabha and scheduled caste organisation.

ii> BR Ambedkar signed Poona Pact with Gandhi which initiated reservations for scheduled castes in elections.

iii> BR Ambedkar worked for upliftment and called for annihilation of the caste system altogether.

Scope of contributions -

- i> BR Ambedkar supported India as an egalitarian society with equal rights and opportunities for all.
- ii> Constitutional safeguards for marginalised communities and reservations in education and public employment.
- iii> Elimination of untouchability and passing of Prevention of Atrocities Act.
- iv> Reduction in caste-based discrimination and exploitation through rituals.
- v> Renewal and rationalization of Hinduism with discontinuation of caste based discrimination.

- vi) Inter-caste marriages and reduced ritualistic practise of purity.
- vii) BR Ambedkar helped India transform as a secular, pluralistic society with tolerance for various religions and communities.
- viii) Ridding Hinduism of dogmatic practises and emphasizing on importance of scientific modern education.

Therefore, BR Ambedkar contributed in development of the vibrant democracy that India is today with celebration of diversity.

13. The Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930-34 was marked by a unique character, regional spatial patterns and employment of new mobilization techniques. Elucidate. (Answer in 250 words)

15

Civil Disobedience Movement was started by Gandhiji after the Dandi March in April 1930 and breaking of the salt law at Sabarnati.

Unique character of CAM -

1. It was the first national level Satyagraha which called for non-violent breaking of laws.
2. Gandhi employed symbolism and used "salt" as a unifying symbol to bring all Indians together.
3. It was first movement that saw women at forefront.

Regional spatial patterns:

1. Salt satyagrahas and breaking of salt tax & production of salt took place at various locations.
2. In South, C. Rajagolachari led the movement from Tiruvartur and produced salt in Madras.

Employment of non-violence -

3. In Andhra Pradesh various small committees were formed to break the salt tax & promote boycott of foreign liquor & clothes.
4. Civil Disobedience movement was carried out in phases from 1930-1932 and then again after III Round Table Conf.

Employment of new mobilisation techniques:

1. People were unified through common cause of production of salt.
2. Women participated in large no. and led various marches.
3. Sarojini Naidu was made head of Congress Working Comm.
4. Students participated in large numbers.
5. It saw increased participation from rural areas & transformed National Movement from a small elitist base to a mass struggle.

Therefore, CDM exerted significant pressure on British to increase scope of devolution of powers.

14. Explain the underlying causes behind the phenomenon of sinking islands in India's coastal regions. Also, evaluate its possible implications for the nation as a whole and island communities in particular. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Phenomena of sinking islands in coastal regions is the submergence of coastal margins & small islands due to climate change and global warming.
causes] -

1. Increase in sea-level due to increase in sea surface temperature and increased melting of glaciers & ice in polar regions.
2. Due to increased heat trapped in oceans, intensity of weather conditions like tsunamis, cyclones have increased with more frequency of such events.

3. Changes in precipitation & increased rainfall causing flooding in coastal regions.
4. Coastal erosion due to increased sea level is also causing sinking of islands.

Implications for nation -

1. Loss of territorial area as islands are crucial for demarcation of Exclusive Economic Zone of country.
2. Loss of GDP and economic growth due to lowered fishing activities and hit to tourism.
3. Increased budgetary allocation for evacuation &

rehabilitation of communities
living on islands.

implications for island communities

1. loss of culture and traditions
due to loss of traditional
habitat.
2. change in livelihood source
thereby causing change in
lifestyle patterns.
3. loss of significant resources
and regional languages.
4. loss of property and life
during disasters causing
adverse effect to social security

Therefore, small island communities
are particularly vulnerable to
adverse effects and should be
compensated for loss & damage.

15. Give a critical account of region-specific constraints with regard to sustainable tourism in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Sustainable tourism practises include various factors like renewable energy utilization for transportation & housing; waste management and environmentally friendly tourist activities.

Region-specific constraints to tourism sustainability -

1. Tectonic sensitivity and subduction of land in Himalayas
- Jashimath subduction and Kedarnath earthquake was caused due to tectonic activity from unsustainable infrastructure development.

2. Increased population density in Himalayan hill stations of Shimla, Joshimath, Dehradun.
3. Pressure on land and uncontrolled development of unsustainable infrastructure causes constraints to sustainable tourism across Shivaliks.
4. Kerala: increased incidents of toppling and damage of backwater-boats due to unlicensed activity and lack of regulation of tourist activities.
5. Lack of sufficient staff to maintain cleanliness & dispose waste safely in major tourist destinations

of Agra, Jaipur causing burden on local population and contamination of local water bodies & landfills.

6. North eastern region suffers from lack of connectivity through transport and ethnic violence causing difficulty in harnessing sustainable tourism potential.

7. Lack of sustainable rituals of pilgrimage tourism across Ganga has caused issues of river pollution in Varanasi, Mathura etc.

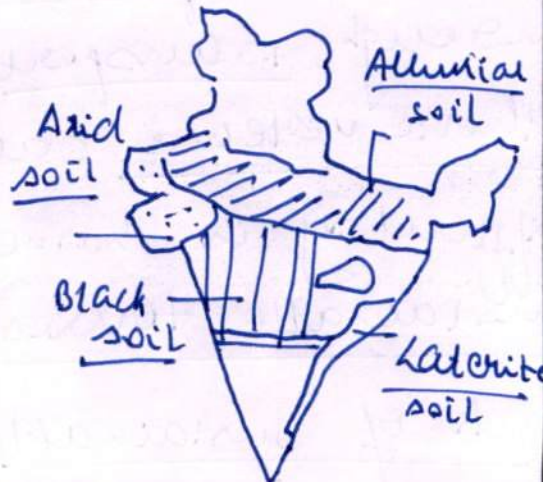
Therefore, Ministry of Tourism needs to develop district based plans dealing with unique local issues.

16. In view of the important role played by soil for the ecosystem, discuss the significance of sustainable soil management in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Soil is the most crucial input for agriculture and prevention of land degradation. India has presence of all major soils with 40% land covered by alluvial soil.

Important Role

- i> Soil provides nutrients to crops.
- ii> Soil prevents erosion by binding topsoil with land.
- iii> Soil is important for recharge of groundwater & aquifers.
- iv> Soil helps in organic decomposition of wastes.



Significance of sustainable soil management -

1. Increased agriculture productivity and doubling of farmers income : According to Dalwadi panel - 1 ha of land under sustainable soil management increases input efficiency by 25%.
2. Sustainable soil management includes using minimum amount of chemical fertilizers and pesticides which leach into groundwater causing pollution & contamination.
3. Sustainable soil management involves managed irrigation which will reduce salinity of land.

4. Increased agriculture yield will support development of aided-sector and food processing activities leading to development of rural india through secondary agriculture.
 5. Soil management is helpful to increased land use efficiency leading to sustainable use and divergence of land for non-farm use: building manufacturing.
 6. Protection of natural habitat and preservation of biodiversity
- therefore, save soil movement & obligations under UNCCD should be implemented with increased people participation.

17. Jet streams play an important role in altering the climate of India and the world.
Discuss with examples. (Answer in 250 words)

15

Jet streams are upper
tropospheric planetary winds
which are narrow belts of air
flowing at high speeds generally
from West to East and are
also called westerlies.

Important role in altering climate:

1. Polar vortex formed due
to Polar jet stream regulate
climate in Northern
hemisphere by capturing
polar winds in
Arctic region, thereby allowing
relatively moderate winters
in temperate zone.



2. Frontogenesis and temperate cyclones : jet streams play an important role in formation of cold and warm airmasses which lead to frontal activity & precipitation in temperate and sub-temperate regions.
3. Western disturbances and winter rainfall in Indian subcontinent : Western Jet stream carries moisture from Mediterranean and cause winter rainfall in Northern India due to orographic effect from Himalayas
- Significant for Rabi crops.

4. Tropical Easterly Jet is responsible for attracting increased moisture as it moves northward over Peninsular India during Southwest monsoon.
5. Tropical Easterly Jet also helps in carrying air from upper atmosphere over Tibetan plateau and depositing it over Mascarene High pressure region in Indian ocean.

Therefore, Jetstreams play a significant role in maintaining global pressure belts and wind circulation which controls weather phenomena.

18. Highlighting the factors responsible for the formation and proliferation of slums in India, discuss the need to revamp the In-Situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR) scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). (Answer in 250 words) 15

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)
is the largest affordable housing
scheme in the world with
over 2 lakh crore budgetary
allocation.

Factors for formation &
proliferation of slums -

1. Lack of town planning and
urban development : most
master plans are outdated.
2. Increased distress migration
from rural India due to
agrarian crisis.
3. Lack of affordable housing
due to limited participation

of private developers due to stringent rent control regimes.

4. Unsustainable floor: ratio index causing suboptimal use of land.
5. Lack of staff and experts for sustainable town planning and infrastructure development.
6. Suboptimal land use pattern due to slums spread over large areas.
7. Lack of adequate employment opportunities causing acute poverty and lack of financial support to afford housing.
8. Lack of administrative and political will to transform slum areas.

Need to Revamp ISSR:

1. In situ slum development scheme has not been successful in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities due to reduced returns.
2. Increase revenues for PPP model and private investment in ISSR projects to reduce financial burden on govt.
3. Move towards conclusive land titling to grant slum dwellers rights over land.
4. ISSR can help formalize their living conditions & increase service delivery in these areas.

Therefore, ISSR is the key to increase efficiency of land use to deal with slum areas.

19. Bring out the relationship between poverty and environmental degradation in India. How can poverty reduction efforts play an important role in promoting sustainable development and safeguarding the environment? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Poverty and environmental degradation form a negative feedback loop which leads to increased vulnerability to adverse effects of degradation on poor and thereby poor people also contributing more to degradation through unsustainable practises.

Relationship -

1. Unsustainable waste disposal practises in poor areas leads to increased degradation of land and water bodies.
2. Poor communities are more vulnerable to loss of property

and lives during natural disasters. Eg: urban flooding always causes more damages to slum areas.

3. Small and marginal farmers face the brunt of falling productivity of land due to soil erosion and increased frequency of flash floods.
4. Poor communities suffer from lack of resilient infrastructure and are last to receive mitigation funding.

Poverty reduction efforts help in promoting sustainable development & safeguarding environment —

1. SDG 1 calls for elimination of acute poverty - reduction of poverty improves inclusive growth.
2. SDG 2, 3 and 4 call for elimination of hunger and availability of healthcare & sanitation which will increase resilience of poor communities in fighting adverse effects.
3. Sustainable solid waste management and reduction in landfills & encroachment of urban water bodies will provide better environment to poor.

Therefore, convergence of poverty reduction schemes are environment protection efforts can be ensured by innovative policies like PM KUSUM.

20. The relationship between globalisation and religion has been a complex one with new possibilities and challenges emerging as a result of the interaction between the two. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Globalisation means increased
interrelationship and interconnected
nations through international trade
and commerce, growth of IT etc.

→ Globalisation and religion have
a complex relation as it
leads to both increased
tolerance and sharing of
religious beliefs. However it
has also led to growth of
fundamentalism to preserve
conventional, traditional practices

New possibilities -

1. Religious tolerance and
heterogeneous societies as
globalisation promotes

exchange of culture.

2. pluralistic values and
opportunity for spreading
awareness about unique practises

Eg: Madhubani tribal paintings
have found a big market overseas

3. Growth of secularism and
increased non-interference of
State with religion.

Changes -

1. increased fundamentalism
and protectionist behaviour
by countries causing regressive
trends of religious control
over state policy Eg: reversal
of Roe v. Wade causing ban
on abortions in USA.

2. Fundamentalist ideologies causing increased financing of terror activities Eg: charities of Islamic institutes of middle East.
3. Intolerance and faultlines due to conflicting nature of globalisation and religious exclusivism.
4. Increased instances of communal violence due to propaganda and hate speech through internet.

Therefore, globalisation has had complex impact on religion which can be managed by glocalisation and enough safeguards for people to preserve their traditional values.