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NEXT IAS

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(To be filled by candidate)

Name of Candidate : MOHIT GUPTA

NEXT IAS Roll No.: #1711246CRA017 **Date of Examination :** 25/09/2023

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☑ Bhopal ☐ Online ☐

Test Code : TC0051 **Program :** SLT ☐ SLT+ ☑

MAIN TEST SERIES 2023
(SECTIONAL TEST-5)

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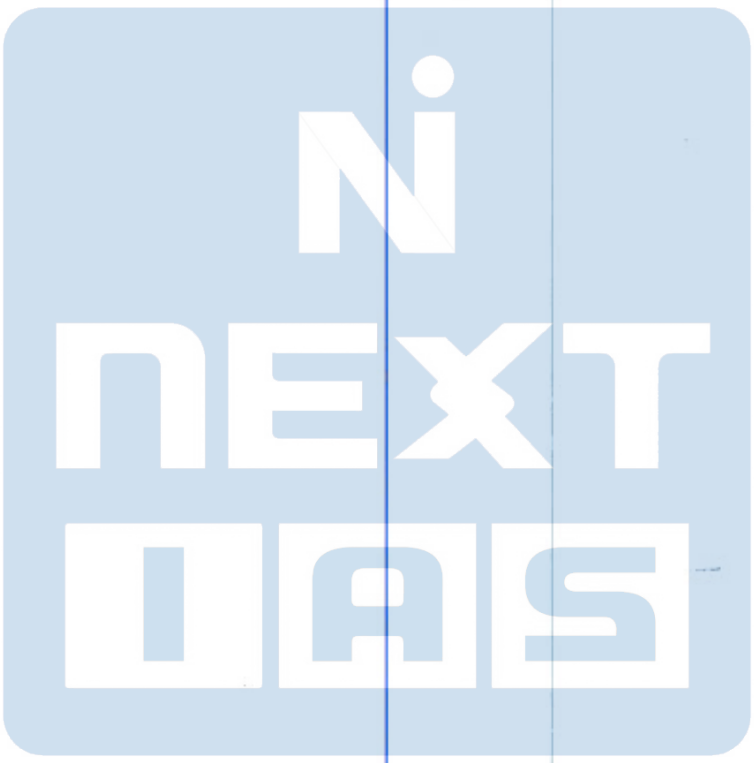
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SUBJECT/PAPER
GENERAL STUDIES

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Evaluator Code :

Q.No	Pg No.	Maximum Marks		Marks	Total
1	1				
2	3				
3	5				
4	7				
5	9				
6	11				
7	13				
8	15				
9	17				
10	19				
11	21				
12	24				
13	27				
14	30				
15	33				
16	36				
17	39				
18	42				
19	45				
20	48				
Grand Total					

Signature

MACRO COMMENTS

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2. Write your registration number and other particulars, in the space provided on the cover of QCA Booklet.
3. Write legibly and neatly. Do not write in bad/illegible handwritings.
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1. अप्रत्याशित कर (विंडफॉल टैक्स) से आप क्या समझते हैं? क्या आपको लगता है कि अप्रत्याशित करों से संपदा का प्रभावी ढंग से पुनर्वितरण हो सकता है और अधिक आर्थिक समानता को बढ़ावा मिल सकता है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

What do you understand by Windfall tax? Do you think that windfall taxes can effectively redistribute wealth and promote greater economic equality? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Ans) Due to sudden upsurge in profits of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) following Russia-Ukraine Conflict, Indian Govt introduced Windfall Tax on their sales.

Concept of Windfall Tax

(1) Sudden increase in the profits of a business, without any positive investment or efforts of industry, simply due to changing global conditions.

(2) In such situations, government can impose Windfall Tax on excess book profits.

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Windfall Tax in redistributing wealth & promoting economic inequality

(1) Potential : (i) Tax collections could be used for capital investment or welfare schemes.

(ii) Prevents disproportionate growth of some sectors :: level playing field in market.

(2) Limitations : (i) Companies can simply pass down the burden on consumers & keep profits intact.

(ii) Collections may go for revenue expenditure.

(iii) No actual capability enhancement or resource increase.

Though windfall tax is short-term fix, however capital investment & structural reforms are way to ensure economic equality

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2. भुगतान संतुलन (बीओपी) के घटकों के रूप में पूँजी खाते और चालू खाते के बीच अंतर का सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। भारत के बीओपी घाटे को संतुलित करने के लिए कुछ उपाय सुझाएँ।
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Elaborate on the difference between Capital Account and Current Account as components of Balance of Payment (BOP). Suggest a few measures to balance the BOP deficit of India.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Ans 2) All foreign income & expenses are measured through System of Capital Accounts & Current Account.

Capital Account	Current Account
(1) Long term impact on the economy (more than 1 year)	Short term impact on the economy (≤1 year)
(2) Components:	Components:
(a) Net inflow of FDI	(a) Net export of goods
(b) Net inflow of FII	(b) Net export of services
(c) External loans raised	(c) Net remittance flow
(d) Accomodating transaction of forex reserves.	(d) Short term foreign debt

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(3) India follows Partial Capital Account Convertibility	Follow Complete Current Account Convertibility
(4) Positive forex flow since last 5 years	(4) Running Current Account Deficit

Measures to balance BOP Deficit

(1) Increasing the manufacturing base
- Industrial Policy
- MSME Promotion
- PLI & Make in India.

(2) Export Promotion : Diversify the Market, Diversify the Basket.

(3) Reducing oil imports by push to renewable energy.

(4) Structural reforms to attract foreign investment.
→ Human Resource Development & Ease of Doing

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3. नई मौद्रिक नीति समिति (एमपीसी) व्यवस्था के तहत मुद्रास्फीति लक्ष्यीकरण को लागू करने की अनुमानित सफलताओं और चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Discuss the perceived successes and challenges of implementing inflation targeting under the new Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) regime.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Ans) Section 45Z of RBI was introduced to change main focus of RBI towards Inflation Targetting (IT).

Success of IT under MPC regime

① Direct Action to control inflation through change of Repo rate.

② Controlled inflation even when global inflation was soaring.

Ex: 2022 → USA = 9% inflation
India = 6% average inflation.

③ Monitor real time inflationary Pressures (CPI monitoring) & action through regular meeting every 2 months.

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(4) MPC decisions give indication to industry & financial markets. These help achieve planned growth by readjustment.

Limitations of IT regime of MPC

(1) Acts with average lag of 9 months.

(2) Banks are hesitant to change lending rates quickly, effectively diluting MPC decisions.

(3) Cannot control micro inflation in commodities. (Ex)- Tomato inflation.

(4) MPC decisions are increasingly being influenced by foreign exchange variations. These weaken inflation targetting.

Despite some challenges, IT regime has been a fairly successful experiment.

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4. लॉजिस्टिक्स (रसद) क्षेत्र, विनिर्माण उद्योग के विकास के महत्त्वपूर्ण घटकों में से एक है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, हाल ही में घोषित राष्ट्रीय लॉजिस्टिक्स नीति, 2022 के विभिन्न घटकों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The logistics sector is one of the important components of the growth of the manufacturing industry. Discuss. Also, mention various components of the recently announced National Logistics Policy 2022. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Ans 4) Logistics sector is critically important for transport of goods & delivery of various services making it backbone of Indian Economy.

Importance of logistics sector

(1) Direct Correlation with final price of Commodities.

(2) Continuous operations of industries through Supply Chain Management.

(3) Time & quality of logistics determine manufacturing efficiency.

Components of National logistics Policy 2022

(1) Ease of Logistics (eLog) : Digital platform

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for grievance redressal of all stake holders indicating all options on single platform.

② Integration of Digital Services (IDS): Portal for single clearance of multiple logistics applications; Harmonizing operations of all ministeries.

③ Unified logistics Interface Platform (ULIP): Single interface for all service options to choose & minimise cost.

④ Capacity Building by training workers.

⑤ Impetus to Multi-Modal logistics Parks based on hub & spoke model at either points.

National logistics Policy 2022 aims to reduce logistics cost from 14-15% of GDP to 7-8% of GDP (Global standards).

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5. भारत में सतत् कृषि को बढ़ावा देने और खाद्य सुरक्षा में सुधार के लिए मोटे अनाज के उत्पादन की क्षमता का आकलन कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Assess the potential of millet production in promoting sustainable agriculture and improving food security in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Ans 5) Millets are indigenous to India & owing to it's nutritional profile were dubbed as nutri-cereals by the government.

Millets & Promoting sustainable agriculture

(1) Easy to cultivate in rainfed areas (55% agri land is rainfed) due to low water requirements → Dryland Farming.

(2) Low time of crop maturation → multiple cycles & increased farmer's income.

(3) Low requirement of inputs -
- Pesticides & Insecticides
- Fertilizers
- water

(4) Drought resistance → reduces chances of crop failure.

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(5) Solve issues of regional imbalance in agriculture - (Ex)- Promote in Vidarbha, Rajasthan etc.

(6) Rising global demands due to health conscious lifestyle - Boost Exports

~~#~~ Millets & improving nutritional security

(1) Storehouse of diverse vitamins - Zinc, Iron etc - → solve issue of hidden hunger.

(2) Naturally fortified foodgrains → supply through PDS to poor.

(3) Low Glycemic Index - Good for health.

(4) Better productivity - solve hunger problem.

'Shree Anna' resolves issues of farmers, consumers, government etc. and are multidimensionally advantageous.

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6. जल जीवन मिशन में पेयजल की उपलब्धता और पेयजल तक पहुँच में क्षेत्रीय विषमता को समाप्त करने का सामर्थ्य है। मिशन के महत्त्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, वांछित उद्देश्यों की प्राप्ति में अंतर्निहित बाधाओं पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Jal Jeevan Mission has the potential to end the regional disparity in the availability and accessibility of drinking water. Highlighting the significance of the mission, discuss the underlying impediments in achieving the desired objectives.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Ans) Providing safe drinking water is sine quanon for good healthy, sustainable cities, human resource potential i.e. for sustainable development.

~~For~~ Significance of Jal Jeevan Mission

(1) Solve the issue of freshwater availability (Only 70% houses had tap connections in 2018).

(2) Special emphasis on vulnerable Communities.

(3) Development of pipelines, lift canals etc. to areas facing water scarcity.

(4) Developing community water structures like raised tanks.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(5) Empowering females – No need to travel to long distances for water.

(6) Social Audit – Water Monitoring Group (community) to monitor implementation of scheme.

Impediments to Schemes

(1) Issue of regular water supply → "Taps are there but water is not"

(2) Increased stress on groundwater table

(3) Misuse of funds due to weak auditing mechanisms.

(4) Issues of quality of water supplied. (High fluoride salts)

Apart from increasing budgetary outlay, more emphasis on ground level corrections can ensure universal supply of water.

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7. डब्ल्यूटीओ के तहत मत्स्यपालन सब्सिडी पर नए समझौते पर भारत का क्या रुख है? भारत के लिए मत्स्यपालन क्षेत्र किस प्रकार महत्त्वपूर्ण है? इस क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

What is India's stand on the New Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies under WTO? How is the Fisheries sector significant for India? Enumerate the steps taken by the Government to develop this sector.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Ans) New Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies under WTO aims to curb Illegal, Unreg-ulated & Unreported Fishing (IUU) along with easing fisheries subsidies.

India has welcomed the agreement as

(a) Better subsidies for coastal Communities

(b) More focus on Capital outlay (Eco's Facts & Rawls)

(c) Curb IUU in Indian ocean.

Significance of Fisheries Sector

(1) 7500 Km long Coastline → Easy access to water & huge livelihood source.

(2) Important for nutrition security & Income security of Coastal areas.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(3) 14% CAGR for exports — Highest for any agricultural activity.

(4) Potential to contribute 25% to agricultural GVA & boost GDP growth.

India's initiatives to develop this Sector

(1) MATSYA Sampada → Provision of Boats, nets etc.
- Eased Credit Access
- Fish Processing Centres
- Cold storage Chains
- Improving port infrastructure

(2) New subscheme of MATSYA Sampada with 6000 crore outlay (Budget '23).

(3) Constructing, sorting, grading infrastructure for export promotion.

(4) Blue Revolution & Meena Kumar Committee on fishery Sector.
Recent focus through credit & institutional support has boosted fishery sector in India.

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8. उन प्रणालीगत और संस्थागत बाधाओं का विश्लेषण कीजिए जो भारत में भूमि सुधार प्रयासों में बाधक बनी हुई हैं और भूमि के न्यायसंगत वितरण को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए व्यावहारिक समाधान प्रस्तावित कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Analyze the systemic and institutional constraints that continue to hinder land reform efforts in India and propose pragmatic solutions to ensure equitable distribution of land.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Ans8) Land Reforms is an ongoing process started from 1950s & current stage remodelled as Digital India Land Record Modernization Program.

System & Institution Constraints

(1) High Fragmentation of landholdings (Avg. size → 1.15 ha & 85% small & marginal farmers)

(2) Land Titling issues
- Ambiguities in law
- lack of documentation
- Long pending litigation

(3) Political Apathy to enforce land Reforms - due to control of rural dominant Community.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Absence of Cartographic & Cadastral maps.

(5) Legal Ambiguities in land Acquisition Act, Forest Protection Act etc.

Solutions possible to ensure equitable land distribution

(1) Mapping of land & Digitization of land records. (Ex) - SVAMITVA Scheme

(2) Removing legal ambiguities through Comprehensive Model land Act.

(3) Developing ADR mechanism for land litigation.

(4) Consolidation of landholdings. (Ex) - Use FPOs, land pooling etc.

To resolve poverty & agricultural backwardness in India, Proper land Reforms are inevitable.

Candidates must not write on this margin

9. "जलवायु परिवर्तन और प्रदूषण से निपटने की हमारी खोज में हरित हाइड्रोजन एक सरल और जादुई समाधान हो सकता है"। भारत के राष्ट्रीय हरित हाइड्रोजन मिशन के आलोक में कथन का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"Green hydrogen can be the silver bullet in our quest to tackle climate change and pollution". Critically analyze the statement in light of India's National Green Hydrogen mission.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Ans) National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) aims to make India a Green Hydrogen Hub with target of 5 MMT production by 2030 -

Potential of NGHM to tackle Climate Change & pollution

(1) Decarbonize transportation. (Ex) :- Hydrogen fuel buses at Pune.

(2) Reducing emissions for hard-to-abate sectors. (Ex) - Tata Steel aims to run a complete Hydrogen powered plant.

(3) Reduce carbon intensity of electric power supply - integration with grid. (500 GW ~~Hydro~~ Renewable Target

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under Panchamrit).

(4) Achieve economies of scale - low cost electricity production.

Limitations of NGHM

(1) Electrolysers → main component for Green Hydrogen are imported.

(2) Issue of scalability → most technology at research & development phase.

(3) Issues with Hydrogen → Flammable & susceptible to explosion.

(4) Budgetary Outlay (₹19,500 cr) is insufficient.

Green Hydrogen promises Cleaner Energy Source of Future. India should undertake more Capital investment to further intensify

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write on this ma

10. नवंबर 2022 में मिस्र में COP27 संयुक्त राष्ट्र जलवायु परिवर्तन सम्मेलन में लॉन्च किये गए 'जलवायु के लिए मैंग्रोव गठबंधन' के उद्देश्य को स्पष्ट कीजिए। उष्णकटिबंधीय देशों की तटीय पारिस्थितिकी को बनाए रखने में मैंग्रोव के महत्त्व पर विस्तार से प्रकाश डालिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Explain the purpose of the "Mangrove Alliance for Climate" launched at the COP27 UN Climate Change Conference in Egypt in November 2022. Elaborate on the importance of mangroves in maintaining the coastal ecology of tropical nations.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Ans 10) UAE launched "Mangrove Alliance for Climate" (MAC) along with partners like Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka etc.

Purpose of MAC

(1) Conservation of Mangroves in conditions of rising global warming & ocean levels.

(2) Sharing of information & best practices

(3) Voluntary Commitments by member nations & targets to be achieved.

(4) Harmonizing global efforts & awareness generation for mangrove protection.

(5) Including Coastal Communities -

Candidates must not write on this margin

Importance of Mangroves for Coastal ecology

(1) Transitionary Ecotones → Areas of high Biodiversity (Ex - Royal Bengal Tiger Home)

(2) Roots system prevent coastal erosion.

(3) Rich fishing grounds & other provisioning services for coastal livelihood.

(4) Bioshield during Tsunami. (Ex) - Andaman & Nicobar during 2004 Tsunami

(5) Filtering brackish water.

(6) Wetland areas → Groundwater Restoration & Carbon Capture (Blue Carbon)

Mangrove Systems act as 'Lifelines' for Coastal ecosystem & Communities.

Candidates must not write on this margin

11. विद्युत संशोधन विधेयक, 2022 उपभोक्ताओं, डिस्कॉम के साथ–साथ पर्यावरण के लिए कई लाभ प्रस्तुत करता है। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही इसकी कमियों को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए और उन्हें दूर करने के लिए कुछ उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।
(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Electricity Amendment Bill 2022 brings several advantages for consumers, DISCOMs as well as the environment. Elaborate. Also, list out its shortcomings and suggest some measures to overcome them.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Ans 11) Electricity Amendment Bill aims to amend Electricity Act of 2003 & introduce sweeping changes in access networks & tariff regulations.

Benefits from Electricity Amendment Bill, 2022

(1) For Consumers :- (i) Multiple options to choose DISCOM due to provisions of Open Access to Grids.

(ii) less cost & more efficient electricity supply.

(iii) Regular updation of Tariffs.

(iv) Easing regulations for standalone industrial captive plants.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) For DISCOMS: (i) ~~This~~ Easy access to grid infrastructure & Removal of monopoly in service area.

(ii) Reduce debt burden by rationalization of ~~tf~~ tariff.

(iii) Easier inter-state supply of electricity.

(3) For environment: (i) Renegotiating PPAs of thermal power plants to include pollution costs.

(ii) Promote captive renewable energy production & integration to grid.

(Ex) - Rooftop Solar.

(iii) Rationalisation of subsidies will prevent reckless use.

Short comings of the Bill

(1) No mention to reduce debt levels

Candidates must not write on this margin

by binding state governments for timely delivery.

(2) No provisions for easing grant of licenses.

(3) Cross-subsidisation → High burden on industries.

(4) Federal issues as electricity is state subject.

Possible Remedies / improvements

(1) Restructuring DISCOM & GENCOs ownership — boost to private sector.

(2) Deleverage DISCOMS — eliminate wasteful subsidies like Agriculture.

(3) Harmonizing Renewable Energy Policy with Electricity Act-

Electricity is critical infrastructure for economy & Reforms at DISCOM level are need of the hour.

Candidates must not write on this margin

12. भारतीय प्रतिभूति एवं विनिमय बोर्ड (सेबी) शेयर बाजार के नियमन और निवेशकों के हितों की सुरक्षा में महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है। दिये गए कथन के आलोक में, सेबी के समक्ष आने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए और इस संबंध में सुधारों का सुझाव दीजिये। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) plays an important role in the regulation of the share market and safeguarding the interests of investors. In the light of given statement highlight the challenges faced by the SEBI and suggest reforms in this regard. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Ans(12) SEBI acts as apex regulator of financial markets & was accorded statutory status through SEBI Act, 1992.

Importance of SEBI in regulating markets

(1) Check for frauds / insider trading / malpractices in markets.

(2) Examine financial disclosures of Companies.

(3) Design protection mechanisms specially for retail investors. (Ex) 10% limit.

(4) Imposes penalties or other punishments for corporate malpractices. (Ex): Sahara Scam

Candidates must not write on this margin

Challenges faced by SEBI

(1) Lack of timely disclosures by companies limit SEBI's ability.

(2) Lack of manpower to verify submissions while also monitoring markets.

(3) Corporate Ownership issues
- Complex ownership patterns through holding companies
- Shell firms - no disclosure
- Difficult to establish accountability

(4) Cannot monitor private/non-public firms.

(5) No judicial authority — easy escape by paying penalties.

(6) Continuing financial scams. (Ex) - NSE Scam 2012.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Possible solutions for resolving issues

(1) SEBI's power on model of RBI Powers — Complete Autonomy to ~~investors~~ monitor markets.

(2) Agreements with other Countries to provide information about Companies ownership.

(3) Some judicial powers to punish violators.

(4) Using Big Data Analytics to monitor possible financial frauds.

(5) Power to monitor private firms if they engage in market distortions.

(6) NBFCs also under SEBI purview along with RBI (prevent IL&FS like crisis)

SEBI can be effectively empowered through legal & institutional changes.

Candidates must not write on this margin

13. अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार प्रमुख मुद्रा प्रतिमान (डीसीएम) पर केंद्रित है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार में हार्ड करेंसी (दुर्लभ मुद्रा) के महत्त्व का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए और डॉलर साम्राज्यवाद के विकल्प के रूप में वैश्विक व्यापार में रुपये की स्वीकार्यता की संभावना पर चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

International trade is centered on the dominant currency paradigm (DCM). Critically Analyze the importance of Hard currency in International trade and Discuss the potential of rupee acceptance in global trade as an alternative to dollar imperialism. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Ans 13) International trade today is invariably centred around US Dollar with more than 80% trade & 90% financial transactions denominated in dollars (DCM effect)

Importance of Hard Currency in International Trade

(1) Benefits: (i) Easier to manipulate global markets according to national needs.

(ii) Direct correlation with boost in exports & economic growth. (Ex) - US growth trajectory post-1995.

(iii) Relative insulation from global disruptions.

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(iv) Demand for currency will provide local economic stimulus -

(v) Higher geopolitical clouts -

(2) Disadvantages :- (i) Loss of sovereign control over monetary policy → dictated by global trade order -

(ii) Domestic shocks can derail global economy - (Ex) - Global Financial Crisis 2008

(iii) Full Capital Account Convertibility needed :- Economy is susceptible to market fluctuations.

Potential for Rupee Acceptance as alternative to Dollar hegemonism

(1) India is 3rd largest economy (PPP) & 5th largest nominally.

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(2) Rising bilateral agreements. (Ex) - Vostro System with Russia & Iran.

(3) ~~It~~ Fastest growing economy globally.

(4) Balanced relations with all powers.

(Ex): BRICS, SCO, G-20, QUAD etc.

Limitations: (1) Smaller size of economy → USA: 30tn USD; India: 3tn USD

(2) less global exports (2% share)

(3) High dominance of Dollar (85% trade)

(4) Follow Partial Capital Account Convertibility.

At this stage of development, India should focus ~~on~~ on internal structural reforms to boost economic growth, than focussing on internationalization of rupee.

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14. जनसांख्यिकीय लाभांश संवृद्धि सुनिश्चित नहीं करता है; यह केवल सामर्थ्य उत्पन्न करता है। जनसांख्यिकीय परिवर्तन से उत्पन्न अवसरों का लाभ उठाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Demographic Dividend does not ensure growth; it only generates potential. Discuss the steps made by the government to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the demographic transition. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Ans 14) Demographic Dividend refers to high proportion of population in working age bracket (15-59 years), which offers huge economic potential.

Demographic Dividend is not growth but potential

Demographic Dividend indicate the potential of economy to generate economic output. Growth itself is contingent on various factors like:-

Education & Skill levels, Employment & Employability, Capacity of Industries, Service sector growth, agricultural productivity, Actual Output etc.

To convert potential into growth a

Candidates must not write on this margin

government needs active steps to achieve structural growth & quality of human capital - missing out on these, can convert divident to demographic disaster.

Steps Made By Government to reap benefits of Demographic Dividend

(1) Human Resource Development : (i) Education : New Education Policy, 2020; PM-SHRI; Ekalvya Model Schools for STs etc.

(ii) Skill Development : National Skill Development Mission, PM-Vikas, USTTAD etc.

(iii) Nutrition : NFSA and PDS System, PM-POSHAN, Matru Vandana etc.

(2) Industrial Growth : (i) Jobs :

Candidates must not write on this margin

New Industrial Policy & Manufacturing Policy.

(ii) Output Growth :- PLI Scheme, Make in India, Sunrise status etc.

(iii) MSME Growth :- Revamped Credit Guarantee, Stand Up India, ZED Policy

(3) Inclusive Growth through provision of basic social security by Awas Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission etc.

(4) Developing agriculture to boost productivity & remove disguised unemployment.

Ex :- SAMPADA & Integrated Farming.

(5) Emphasis on Vocationalization of education & higher employability of youth.

With more than 50% of population in working age bracket, Demographic Potential can propel us for $5tn economy.

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15. भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में एक प्रमुख योगदानकर्ता होने के बावजूद, कृषि क्षेत्र कई बाधाओं से ग्रस्त है जो इसकी वृद्धि और विकास में रुकावट डालते हैं। इन बाधाओं पर काबू पाने में प्रौद्योगिकी की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Despite being a major contributor to the Indian economy, the agriculture sector is plagued by several constraints that impede its growth and development. Discuss the role of technology in overcoming these constraints.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Ans (15) Agriculture Sector Contribution to Indian Economy :- (a) 15% GDP

(b) 46% Employment.

(c) 52 bn USD Exports.

Issues Plaguing Agriculture Sector

(1) Pre-Sowing :- (i) Fragmental & Uneconomical landholdings

(ii) High cost of Inputs.

(iii) Declining seed productivity.

(2) Pre-Harvesting :- (i) Lack of extension services to farmers.

(ii) Overuse of groundwater & fertilizer Imbalance

(iii) Pest Attacks & Crop Failure

Candidates must not write on this margin

(3) Post Harvest : (i) APMC Cartelization & low Farm Revenue

(ii) lack of storage & transport architecture

(iii) ~~lack of~~ Low farmer income & Subsidy Distortions

Role of Technology to overcome Constraints

(1) Inputs : (i) Seeds : GM seeds, better pest & drough resistance etc.

(ii) Irrigation → Micro-Irrigation
→ Precision agriculture

(iii) Soil → NPK Analysis by Soil Health Card
→ Drones for topographic analysis
↓
Fertigation

(iv) Land issues → Digital Land Record Modernization
→ SVAMITVA Scheme etc.

(2) During crop cycle : Pest resistance &

Candidates must not write on this margin

Artificial intelligence to monitor crop healthy e-Choupal & e-KISAN as digi-services for educating farmers-

(3) Post Harvest → Market linkage ex- e-NAM

→ Storage facilities & better transportation

Commercial Online sale

(4) For Government's (i) Better delivery of services (Ex's PM KISAN through Direct Benefit Transfer-

(ii) Promote Integrated Farming. (Ex). Better livestock through hybrid technology.

(iii) Promotion to food processing technology & Quality Certification for Export.

Technology can truly turn farmers from distressed state to AGRIPRENEURS.

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16. पर्यावरण एवं प्राकृतिक संसाधनों पर सिंचाई के प्रभाव का मूल्यांकन कीजिए, और कृषि में सिंचाई पद्धतियों की संधारणीयता और समता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उपाय सुझाएँ। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Evaluate the impact of irrigation on the environment and natural resources, and suggest measures to ensure the sustainability and equity of irrigation practices in agriculture.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Ans) UNESCO's Groundwater Report 2022 highlighted that 90% of groundwater overuse in India is for irrigation, indicating alarming situation.

Impact of irrigation on environment & natural resources

(1) ~~Also~~ Wheat & Rice Economy's Water Intensive & not suitable to environment leading to groundwater table depletion.

(2) Excess irrigation in paddy fields → emission of methane & global warming.

(3) Excess irrigation leading to surface water run-off → pollution of rivers & water sources.

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(4) Overuse of Canals → Drying up of rivers. (Ex): Yamuna through Haryana.

(5) Imbalanced use causing problems of water equity & water scarcity.

(6) Unsustainable irrigation patterns → Land Degradation & Desertification.

Measures to ensure sustainability & equity of irrigation practices

(1) Vaidyanathan Committee's (1) Clamp-down on electricity subsidies & tubewell subsidies.

(ii) Water Pricing Mechanisms.

(2) Implementation of Krishi Sinchayee Yojana: (1) Per Drop, More Crop →

Candidates must not write on this margin

Use of micro-irrigation & precision farming for water use efficiency -

(i) 'Har Khet Ko Paani' → Water Equity

(ii) Watershed Management (Conservation)

(3) Empowering Farmer Producer Organisations for building Community water harvesting structures like tanks for irrigation.

(4) Diversification of Cropping pattern

- Millet Promotion
- Change MSP Structure
- Promote environment suited crops.

(5) Easy Credit availability for sprinkler systems, drip irrigation systems -

"Water Scarcity today is Water Poverty Tomorrow." We need to urgently reform our irrigation patterns.

Candidates must not write on this margin

17. 'जीनोम एडिटिंग (जीनोम संपादन) में फसल सुधार की अपार संभावनाएँ हैं, लेकिन यह नैतिक और सुरक्षा संबंधी चिंताओं को भी जन्म देती है।' भारत में जीनोम–संपादित पादपों के सुरक्षा मूल्यांकन के लिए नए दिशा–निर्देश आनुवंशिक रूप से संशोधित फसलों की सुरक्षा को कितना सुनिश्चित करते हैं? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'Genome editing holds immense potential for crop improvement, but it also raises ethical and safety concerns'. How far do the new guidelines for the safety assessment of genome-edited plants in India, ensure the safety of genetically modified crops? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Ans 17) Genome editing is a method of genetic engineering where desirable traits ~~genes~~ are introduced by selective introduction of foreign DNA (Ex) Bt-Cotton.

New guidelines on safety-assessment of genome edited Plants

(1) Every Company need to provide both lab data & field data (3 years) for applying for GM seeds in India.

(2) Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) will hold final authority to decide on all matters

(3) Mandatory open field testing for

Candidates must not write on this margin

GM Crops.

(4) Safety parameters are s/g impact on soil, water etc.

(b) Impact on surrounding biodiversity

(c) Impact on end Consumer (Cartagena Protocol)

Necessary safety levels will be decided by GEAC for market approval.

(5) All GM-processed food products will carry explicit labelling.

Limitations of new guidelines for safety assessment

(1) No mention of how the data submitted by Companies will be Verified.

(2) Lack of deliberative forum to address issues of farmers, NGOs &

Candidates must not write on this margin

Consumers.

(3) lack of compensation mechanism if field trials adversely impacts other fields - (Ex: Use of Terminator Gene)

(4) Relaxations & Exemptions for submission timeline can dilute monitoring mechanisms.

(5) Explicit thresholds of safety are not mentioned in the act.

(6) Mechanism for long-tenure impact assessment (beyond 3 years) not there.

Though new guidelines aims to ease GM crops trials for food security through better productivity, but lacunae in same can be addressed through future amendments

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18. भारत में कृषि क्षेत्र पर प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष कृषि सब्सिडी के प्रभाव की चर्चा कीजिए। न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (एमएसपी) ने कृषि अर्थव्यवस्था को किस प्रकार प्रभावित किया है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Discuss the impact of direct and indirect farm subsidies on the agriculture sector in India. How have Minimum Support Prices (MSP) affected the agricultural economy? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Ans 18) Farm Subsidies are major Component of Indian Budget with them crossing ₹4 lakh crore during 2022-2023.

Impact of Farm Subsidies in Agriculture

(1) Direct Subsidies :- (i) Provided in form of cash & incentives directly to farmer.

(ii) Positively impact as it raises purchasing power for inputs, investment in agri-equipments etc. (Ex) :- PM-KISAN

(iii) Negative impact is it could be misused for non-farm purpose.

(2) Indirect Subsidies :- (i) Provided through Subsidy on fertilizer, procurement subsidy etc.

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(ii) Positively impact by lowering cost of production, assured procurement & better agri. productivity potential.

(iii) Negatively impact with market distortion, subsidy leakage, environmental degradation, overuse of resources (water, fertilizer) etc.

Impact of MSP on Indian Agriculture

Positive :- (1) Raise farm revenue as 50% extra Compensation against input cost.

(2) Assured procurement & no limits.

(3) Limits distress sale & exploitation by traders.

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④ Policy tool to influence cropping pattern. Ex: Increased subsidy for millets & oilseed.

Negatives: ① Wheat-Rice Monocropping due to populist economic decisions.

② Negative environmental impact - fertiliser overuse & depleting groundwater.

③ Market Distortion & Food Inflation

④ Profits are cornered by APMC Middlemen & Adhatiyas

⑤ Declining Farm Productivity due to MSP (Shanta Kumar Committee) NITI Aayog India@75 Report suggest 'Bhavantar Bhugtaan' & 'Minimum Reserve Price' as alternatives to MSP distortions.

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19. वैश्विक मीथेन प्रतिज्ञा क्या है? क्या आपको लगता है कि वैश्विक मीथेन प्रतिज्ञा मीथेन उत्सर्जन को कम करने की दिशा में एक सकारात्मक कदम है? इस मुद्दे पर भारत का रुख स्पष्ट कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

What is Global Methane Pledge? Do you think the Global Methane Pledge is a positive step toward mitigating methane emissions? Explain India's stance on this issue. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Ans 19) Methane is a short-lived Greenhouse Gas (~11 years) but high global warming potential (80× times CO_2), thus enabling "easy targetting & better Returns".

Global Methane Pledge :- Multiple Countries led by USA & EU have come together to reduce methane emissions by 30% by 2030. This will be done by identifying & acting in priority sectors like Agriculture, Solid Waste Management etc. for quick Results.

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Implications of Global Methane Pledge

(1) Positive step: (i) Easier to target methane emission. Better Effort-Result Ratio.

(ii) Limit Global warming - Adhere to 1.5°C rise target under Paris Agreement.

(iii) Binding targets for countries → Actual results will be visible.

(iv) Decarbonize agriculture, less carbon intensive cities etc.

(v) Technology & Knowledge Transfer for member nations.

(2) Limitations: (i) No Objective metric to measure methane emission reduction.

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(ii) Agricultural measures can impact income of vulnerable farmers -

(iii) Issue of democratic decision making - Dominated by West.

India's Stance on the issue

(1) Refused to join pledge, as :-

(i) Agriculture → Primary source of employment & less capability of farmers to quickly switch.

(ii) Binding targets → Non-sovereign nature.

(iii) Lack of Clarity on mitigation pathways.

India has own commitments under 'Pandramrit' & 'Global Methane Initiative' which suits it's national demands.

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20. हानि और क्षति (L&D) कोष के क्रमिक विकास को चिह्नित कीजिए। COP 27 में हानि और क्षति कोष से संबंधित कौन–से प्रमुख घटनाक्रम हुए हैं? इस सम्मेलन में भारत ने क्या प्रतिबद्धताएँ व्यक्त की हैं? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Trace the evolution of the Loss and Damage fund. What are the major development related to loss and damage funds in COP 27?, What are the commitments made by India in this conference? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Ans:- Rise of extreme weather events globally & disproportionate impact on developing countries has reignited debate on Loss & Damage Fund. (Ex)- Pakistan Floods, 2022; Chilean Forest Fires 2023 etc.

Evolution of Loss & Damage Fund

(1) Warsaw Mechanism on Loss & Damage was the first global effort in 2014 to develop Compensation method.

(2) UNFCCC in 2015 → Committee to decide international financial structure for Loss & Damage Fund.

(3) Developed Countries-pledged 100bn USD for Climate Justice in COP21

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(4) COP 27 @ Sharm El Sheikh → Formal adoption of Loss & Damage Fund (2023)
→ Committee formed to prepare detailed mechanism report for COP 28 (UAE)

Major Developments in COP 27

(1) ~~It~~ Formal Document recognised setting up of Loss & Damage Fund.

(2) Re-iteration by developed countries to fulfill 100bn USD Commitment.

(3) Impasse over Countries like India & China to be considered Donors or ~~Recipts~~ Receivers under this Fund.

Indian Stance on this issue

(1) Re-iterated the Rio Principle of

Candidates must not write on this margin

Common But Differentiated Responsibility.

(a) Despite being responsible for less ~~ta~~ than 3% CO_2 emissions historically & lowest per capita Carbon footprint, India announced it will Contribute to the fund.

(b) Dedicated for transparent funding through Consensus.

(4) Suggested Domains

- Disaster Resilience Infrastructure
- Negative Emission Technologies
- Humanitarian Aid in Disasters.

India through proactive 'Panchamrit' & funding commitments, has led the voice of Global South for Climate Justice.

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Space for Rough Work

NEXT IAS