

IAS Edge

GS Mentoring (Mains) - Test 07

Topic: Ecology & Environment + Disaster Management + Current Affairs

Important Instructions

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Name:- Apurva Sinha | Email ID:- [Redacted] |
| Contact No.:- [Redacted] | Date:- [Redacted] |

Candidates should read the under mentioned instructions carefully. Violation of any of the instructions may lead to penalty.

DO'S :

1. Read the instructions on the cover page and the specific instructions to this Question Paper mentioned on the next page of this Booklet carefully and strictly follow them.
2. Write your Name and other particulars, in the space provided on the cover page of the Question-Cum-Answer-Booklet.
3. Write legibly and neatly in ink. Pencil may be used for drawing diagrams, sketches, etc.
4. For rough work, blank pages provided at the end of this booklet should be used. The rough work should be crossed through afterwards.
5. If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it or write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be valued.
6. Hand over your Question-Cum-Answer-Booklet personally to the supervisor/invigilator.

DONT'S:

1. Do not write your Name or Name of the subject of Question-Cum-Answer-Booklet anywhere inside this Booklet.
2. Do not write anything other than the actual answers to the questions anywhere inside your Question-Cum-Answer-Booklet.
3. Do not tear off any leaves from your Question-Cum-Answer-Booklet. If you find any page missing, do not fail to notify the Supervisor/invigilator.
4. Do not write anything on the Question Paper available in detachable form. Write answers at the specified space only.

(To be filled by Examiners only)

| Questions No. | Starting Page No. | Marks | Section Total | Signature of Examiner |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------|---------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | | | <i>Overall decent effort</i> <i>Keep it up</i> <i>Revise more</i> <i>Content will converge more</i> |
| 2 | 5 | | | |
| 3 | 8 | | | |
| 4 | 11 | | | |
| 5 | 14 | | | |
| 6 | 17 | | | |
| 7 | 20 | | | |
| 8 | 23 | | | |
| 9 | 26 | | | |
| 10 | 29 | | | |
| 11 | 32 | | | |
| 12 | 35 | | | |
| 13 | 38 | | | |
| 14 | 41 | | | |
| 15 | 44 | | | |
| Grand Total | | | | |

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

1. Define the concept of carrying capacity of an ecosystem as relevant to the environment. Explain how understanding this concept is vital while planning for sustainable development of the region.

(Please don't write anything in this space)

Carrying capacity of an ecosystem refers to the number of individuals in a population that the environment is able to carry through with all their biological processes and needs without causing any degradation to the environment.

Every year the Earth Overshoot Day (a mechanism to measure carrying capacity) of the year denotes that humans are depleting most resources available for the year by July to August. Thus, they are borrowing resources from the future generations beyond the coping capacity of the environment.

Relevance of carrying capacity to our Planning and sustainable development -

- Withdrawal of resources from mines and ores (eg- coal, bauxite) should not be exploiting and not damage the neighbouring areas
- Urban Land Management in the face of rapidly bursting urban population and 'crowding' of spaces
- Agriculture land Management Population boom puts immense burden on the need to cultivate more food.

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

(Please don't write anything in this space)

- Management and Re-energising of Bad Land / waste land through Bonn challenge, UNECD frameworks
- Better management of forest lands, National parks and wildlife sanctuaries
- Re-look into Solid and liquid Waste Management. According to Kasturba committee, around 62 MT of wastes are generated everyday.
- Recycling, waste water treatment and waste to energy plants. (Eg - recently in Bidar, Karnataka. Waste to energy plant set up)

Thus, the understanding of carrying capacity will go a long way into better and more optimal use of resources and enable India to meet Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

5.5/12.5

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

2. How does the draft (EIA) Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2020 differ from existing EIA Notification 2006? Analyze critically.

(Please don't write anything in this space)

Environment Impact Assessment is a management tool to assess the environment impact of a developmental project and give suitable mitigation measures. The following are the differences between EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) of 2020 with 2006.

EIA, 2020

- ~~But~~ Public hearing time of 25 days and entire process within 40 days.
- Projects can be started without NOC (No objection certificate).
- Strategic Projects (eg. in border areas) are exempt from public hearing.
- Faster and smoother process of clearances.
- Monitoring, compliance and safeguard remain same as EIA 2006.
- Non penalisation of several offences to boost economic activity.

EIA, 2006

- Public hearing within 30 days and entire process within 45 days.
- Projects cannot be started without approvals.
- Strategic Projects have to go mandatory public hearing.
- Slower and more deliberative process.
- Penalisation of accidents, mishaps and lack of proper management.

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

Analysis of Environment Impact Assessment, 2020.

- ① According to South Asia Network on Dams, the EIA 2020 is diluted than 2006 law and encourages economic exploitation of the environment
- ② Provision for escaping legal confrontation
- ③ Shortening of time to file petition against companies.
- ④ Brings down transparency, accountability
- ⑤ Accidents. (eg - Vizag gas leak). Nevertheless, it also has certain benefits
 - ① Ease of Doing businesses
 - ② Faster project approvals, land clearances
 - ③ Keep projects economically viable and not let them depreciate.
 - ④ Strategic area infrastructural development is a part of border management and border security

The law must undergo scrutiny by multiple stakeholders before its final notification. The process has to be made more democratic, and people's right to a healthy and secure environment must be acknowledged.

Good

6/12.5

IAS EDGE
(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

3. What do you understand by polar vortex? Explain its effect on Indian subcontinent and other Asian countries.

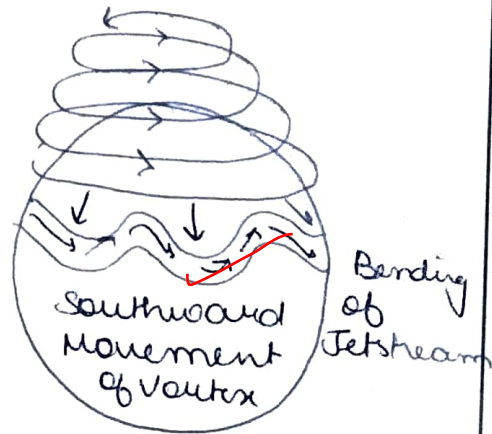
Polar vortex is a whirling motion of low pressure but very cold system in the polar stratospheric (10 km - 48 km) regions of the atmosphere. This vortex is protected from "leaking" into mid-latitudes with the help of jet streams.

But, when these jet streams weaken, some of the extremely cold winds escape from the polar areas and reach the temperate latitudes causing extremely low temperatures.

Weakening of jet streams is associated with warm temperatures (between February to June) or also due to Global Warming but the cold weather from Polar areas bring temperatures to sub-zero.



Anti-clockwise movement of Vortex in Northern Hemisphere



expansion of Vortex (Feb to April)

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

Impact of Polar Vortex on Indian Subcontinent

- ① Due to the ~~lefty~~ Himalayas and Hindu Kush mountains, polar winds are ~~unable~~ to reach Indian subcontinent directly
- ② However, they may ~~reach~~ Indian continent through ~~westerlies~~ from the ~~Mediterranean~~
- ③ Heavy snowfall, ~~avalanches~~ in Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, ~~subzero~~ temperatures
- ④ Cold winds containing moisture may cause hailstorms and ~~destroy~~ winter crops (Rabi crops like ~~wheat~~, barley) causing losses to farmers.



Impact on Asian countries

- ① Dry and chilly winds across China, Korean peninsula, & Central Asia.
- ② subzero temperatures and heavy snowfall (eg - in Hokkaido, Japan)

Polar Vortex is a naturally occurring phenomenon. Yet, ~~anthropogenic~~ activities may cause its ~~intensification~~ and result in extreme weather events ~~in~~ causing economic losses and loss of lives to human beings.

(Please don't write anything in this space)

Good

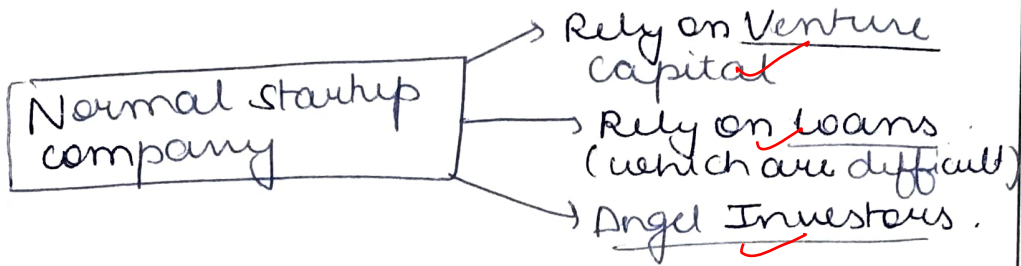
6.5/12-5

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

4. Innovators growth platform is a significant step in giving fillip to startup companies in India. Explain.

(Please don't write anything in this space)

Innovators Growth Platform is a modified version of Institutional Trading Platform (ITP) that was launched in 2018 to allow startup companies to be listed on stock exchange with simpler and easier processes.



But under Innovators Growth Platform, companies (with specific focus on advanced technology, Artificial Intelligence, biotechnology, Nano-technology etc) may be provided with

- a) A single platform (for investment through FDI, FII, High Networth Individuals, Government, Angel Investors, foreign institutions)
- b) Reduced waiting time for listing (from 3 years to 1 year)
- c) Less complicated application procedures
- d) Facilitating ease of doing business
- e) Attract much needed capital from market in advanced technology without formal process of IPO (Initial Public Offer).

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

f) scheme can very well be synergised with Make in India and Startup India.

g) Help India achieve self-reliance under Aatmanirbhar Bharat (where numerous credit facilities have been given).

h) Help India meet its goal of 5 Trillion Economy by boosting private entrepreneurship.

Innovators Growth Platform, thus can be a gamechanger in the Startup sector of India and enable them with the initial thrust, that is risky but highly yielding for several breakthrough companies to emerge.

Good

6/12.5

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

(Please do not write anything except the question number)

5. Discuss how Pandemic can be a good opportunity to boost electric mobility in India. In spite of all the optimism do you think that electric vehicles can replace the fossil fuel based vehicles in near future?

With rapidly changing environment and tumultuous politics in West Asia, the Pandemic has ~~also~~ provided with a fresh outlook towards energy needs and energy security. This can be used to boost electric mobility in India. The recent announcement of opening up of TESLA factory in India shows is a step in that direction.

① Fall in International crude oil prices and Price War between Saudi Arabia and Russia helped India to fill its Strategic Petroleum Reserves and reduce Current Account Deficit

② Freed up funds left available can be used to invest more in electric vehicles

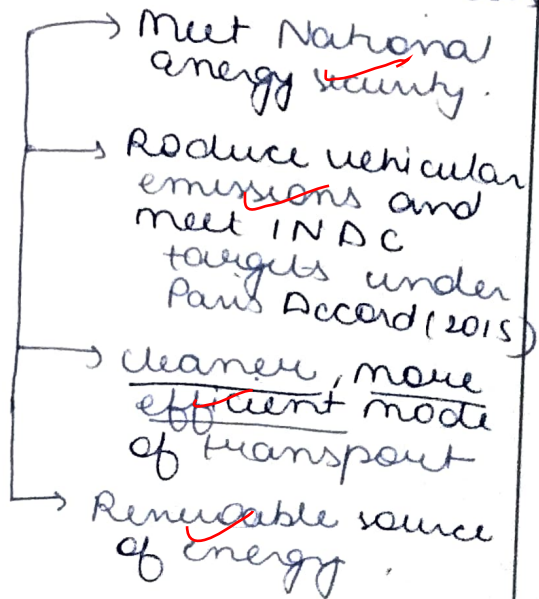
③ Advantages of Electric Mobility

④ Government's initiatives

a) GST reduced from 28% to 12%

b) Tax cuts on loans for purchasing Electric Vehicles

c) Faster Adoption and Manufacture of Hybrid and Electric vehicles (FAME Scheme)



(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

(Please don't write anything in this space)

d) synergised with National Electricity Mobility Mission, 2020 that aims to boost purchase of electric vehicles to 6-7 million units by 2020.

Despite, the optimism, electric vehicles are yet to fully replace automobiles run by fossil fuels.

- ① High costs of vehicles (25 lakhs or more)
- ② Non-subsidisation of technology
- ③ Slump in Automobile sector after BS-IV Norms (so government cannot afford to neglect fossil fuel industry)
- ④ Lithium-ion deficiency in India and reliance on China, South East Asia
- ⑤ Recently, government signed (Bidish Khany Ltd) MOUs with Chile, Bolivia and Argentina for lithium-ion and cobalt batteries.

India has the triple challenge of balancing its environmental needs of cleaner and more sustainable fuel, and at the same time has to ensure affordability of renewable technology for its masses. A slow transition would be the way ahead.

Good

6/12.5

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

6. Developing and conserving wetlands in urban areas of the country and rainwater harvesting can be the best possible way to handle and eliminate water crisis. Explain with suitable examples.

(Please don't write anything in this space)

Wetlands are transitional ecosystems occurring between land and aquatic ecosystems. They include lake littorals, flood plains, marshes, swamps and areas where water gets stagnated due to poor drainage.

Role of Urban Wetlands in eliminating water crisis

- Habitat to Aquatic flora and fauna.
(eg- Kolkata wetlands provide 12000 to 15000 Million tonnes of fish)
- Filtration of sediments and Natural purification of water
- Water recharge and Microclimate stabilisations (eg- Bhejtal Wetlands in Bhopal prevent drought like situation in dry summers and provide water to the city)
- Controls runoff rate of rivers
(eg- wetlands in Malaysia, Thailand absorb heavy runoff of Red river and Chao Phraya river)
- Absorption of storm water
eg- in 2020, Chennai wetlands and mangrove forests absorbed storm surge during Cyclone Nivah.

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

↳ Wetlands also act as a carbon sink and play an important role in biogeochemical cycles.

Along with RAINWATER HARVESTING - Urban wetlands can help solve water crisis in urban areas

- ① According to WWF, Indore, Jaypur are in the high probability of facing water scarcity.
- ② Bangalore already witnessed 'Day Zero' of absolute waterlessness in 2018.
- ③ Reduce costs of high technology sewage treatment plants and waste water treatment plants
- ④ Reduce costs spent in flooding infrastructure.
- ⑤ Rainwater capturing.

Thus, Urban Wetlands along with Roof top Rainwater Harvesting and underground recharge replenishing can provide WSTAINABLE and COST EFFECTIVE mechanism for solving problem of water crisis

6/12.5

(Please do not write anything in this space)

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

7. We must shift our focus from rescue and relief operations to long term risk management to handle disaster management effectively. Explain.

MS Swaminathan, pioneer in Indian Agriculture said, 'There is no long term government policy on managing disasters. At best its approaches are ad-hoc and fire fighting in Nature.' This highlights the need to shift focus to long term RISK MANAGEMENT for effective Disaster Management.



But, long term Risk Management of Disasters is a holistic, comprehensive and Risk-Assessment oriented approach. It saves more lives and reduces economic damage after disaster has struck.

components of long term Risk Management

① Vulnerability and Hazard Mapping using GIS, cosat, Earth Observation satellites

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

2

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

- ② Stronger legislative and Institutional framework (eg - National Building Codes, National Disaster Management Plan, 2016)
- ③ Public utilities and capacity building (water, communication infrastructure, roads etc)
- ④ Supporting Research and Development, Training, Mock Drills
- ⑤ Improvement in Educational Curricula with Mandatory Disaster Management training
- ⑥ Retrofitting of older / weaker / vulnerable structures (eg - using AMRUT scheme)
- ⑦ Citizens charter of Dos and Don'ts and community involvement, education and awareness (through collaboration with NGOs, CSOs etc)
- ⑧ Disaster Insurance to people

That is, Disasters are unpredictable and destructive but their impact can be severely minimised with the help of long term and medium term planning and risk management.

⑧

6/12-5

(Please don't write anything in this space)

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

8. Describe various measures taken in India for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) before and after signing 'Sendai Framework for DRR (2015-2030)'.

(Please don't write anything in this space)

The Third World Conference on Natural Disasters, 2015, also known as SENDAI Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is an attempt by International community to 'BUILD BACK BETTER' by understanding and investing in DISASTER RISK REDUCTION and DISASTER RESILIENCE.

Steps taken by India before Sendai Framework

- ① SAARC Disaster Management Centre (2006). It focussed on research and development, policy assistance to governments. OPERATION MAITREYI was a part of this (2015, Nepal earthquake)
- ② BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise.
- ③ National Disaster Management Act, 2005 that focuses on SAFE and DISASTER RESILIENT INDIA through a 3 tier structure.
 - National Disaster Management Auth (UNION level)
 - ↓
 - State Disaster Management Authority
 - ↓
 - District Disaster Management Authority

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

Sendai Framework (2015) focused on

- Reducing Global Disaster Mortality
- Reduce overall affected people
- Reducing economic losses
- Multihazard Early Warning Systems
- enhancing International Cooperation (through technology, finance and knowledge)

Steps taken by India post Sendai framework -

- ① National Disaster Management Plan (2016) which is based on Sendai framework and follows a HORIZONTAL + VERTICAL approach to Disaster Management.
- ② AMRUT Mission for Reurbanisation and Retrofitting of dilapidated structures in Urban Areas
- ③ National Disaster Mitigation Fund set up (based on recommendations of Finance Commission)
- ④ 2 Billion dollars for Disaster Risk Reduction by India
- ⑤ GSAT, Earth Sat and cooperation with Indian Ocean Region (IOR) countries on Disaster Management and Humanitarian relief

- Add more points

(Please do not write anything except question number)

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

Thus, it can be seen that India's approach towards Disaster Management is slowly shifting from laid back to a pro-active and dynamic approach. It aims to reduce and mitigate damage and also earn diplomatic goodwill.

(Please don't write anything in this space)

5.5 / 12.5

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

9. The frequency of cyclones affecting the coastal areas in India has increased. However India's preparedness for dealing with them has significant gaps. Discuss.

(Please don't write anything in this space)

The recently released report by C-40 (a group of 96 local governments) around the world observed increase in frequency of cyclones and tidal surge events.

It warned that by 2050, 570 low lying areas ~~pr~~ would be prone to rising sea, heavy rainfall and extreme weather events.

2020 also witnessed severe cyclonic events such as Cyclone Amphan (in West Bengal and Orissa) and Cyclone Nivari (on the coast of Tamil Nadu).

Reasons for frequency of cyclones increasing

- ① Global warming and subsequent heating of Bay of Bengal and Arabian sea to low pressure systems.
- ② Frequent transfer of tropical Pacific heat to Bay of Bengal.
- ③ Pandemic induced ANTHROPOUSE and lack of 'cloud formation' due to lack of emissions from factories, vehicles and faster heating up.
- ④ Indian Ocean dipole which caused dryness in ^{eastern} western Indian Ocean (eg - Australian fires) and wet events in western Indian Ocean.

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

Gaps in India's preparedness

- ① Very little time at hand to prepare teams and evacuate people in large numbers. (Only Orissa is well-equipped among all Indian states)
- ② High cost of forecasting technologies (eg - DOPPLER weather Radars - identifies cyclones in 5 to 6 days prior to the event).
- ③ Need to collaborate with countries (Japanese Meteorological Agency, US National Hurricane Centre)
- ④ Absence of Evacuation drills
- ⑤ No investment in rehabilitation and evacuation sheds (ad-hoc nature of preparedness)
- ⑥ New and highly dynamic prediction models needed (Example IIT-Bombay's Tide Rainfall flood quotient).
- ⑦ Structural measures like Tide breakers, storm storm surge barriers, state of art Oceanic circulation Models needed.

India would need to bridge its Planning as well as structural gaps so that data is available on a real time basis and more number of lives of people could be saved.

Good

6
12.5

(Please don't write anything in this space)

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

10. How important are vulnerability and risk assessment for pre-disaster management.
As an administrator, what are the key areas that you would focus for disaster management?

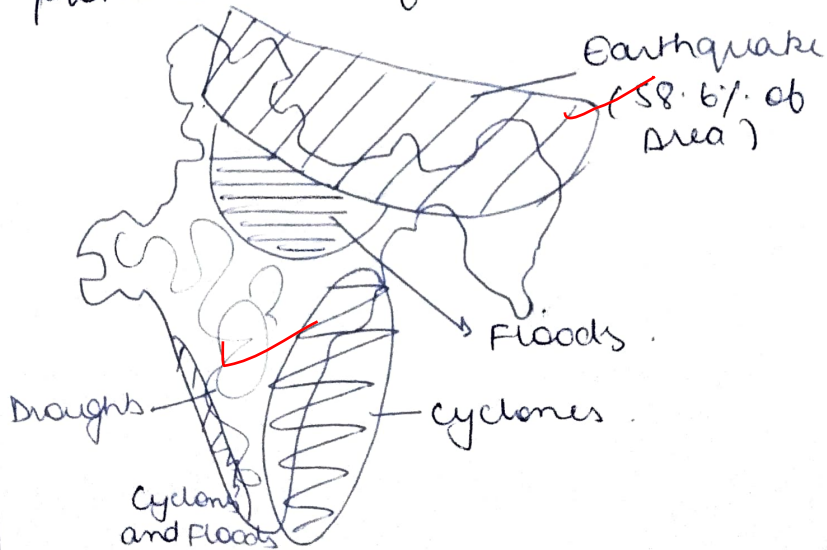
(Please don't write anything in this space)

Vulnerability is the proneness of a region or group of people to a disaster event, whereas Risk is the amount of potential damage that could occur in a region.
Example - Coastal Odisha is more at risk to seasonal cyclones than Western Odisha (in terms of lives, property).

Vulnerability and Risk Assessment is important because ~~that~~

① Magnitude, frequency and complexity of a disaster varies due to socio-economic conditions ~~and~~ of the people as well as geo-climatically for regions

② India is one of the 10 worst disaster prone countries of the world.



(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

As an administrator, key areas that would be focused for disaster management would be

- Building safety and structural repairs needed.
- Drainage systems and declogging of sewage drains.
- Lightning proof buildings / houses. Earthing conductors attached.
- Barriers or walling (concrete or through forestation) at the base of hills.
- Evacuation shelter at a high level area.
- Mandatory Mock drills under EVS classes in all government and private schools (fires, earthquakes).
- Innovative competition and citizen feedback to make districts safer.
- Help and support of voluntary Non Profit organisations.
- Community Disaster Relief Training.

Thus, with the help of the above measures, I would minimise losses through Disaster Risk Resilience as prescribed under Sendai Framework for 2015 to 2030.

6/12.5

Good

(Please don't write anything in this space)



(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

11. How can the RBI's surplus capital be used for several purposes by Government of India? Discuss in light of contention between RBI and Central Government last year.

(Please don't write anything in this space)

(Please don't write anything in this space)

Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)



12. Though India has many schemes for vulnerable sections, there are still obstacles for reaching the real beneficiaries. Explain.

(Please don't write anything in this space)

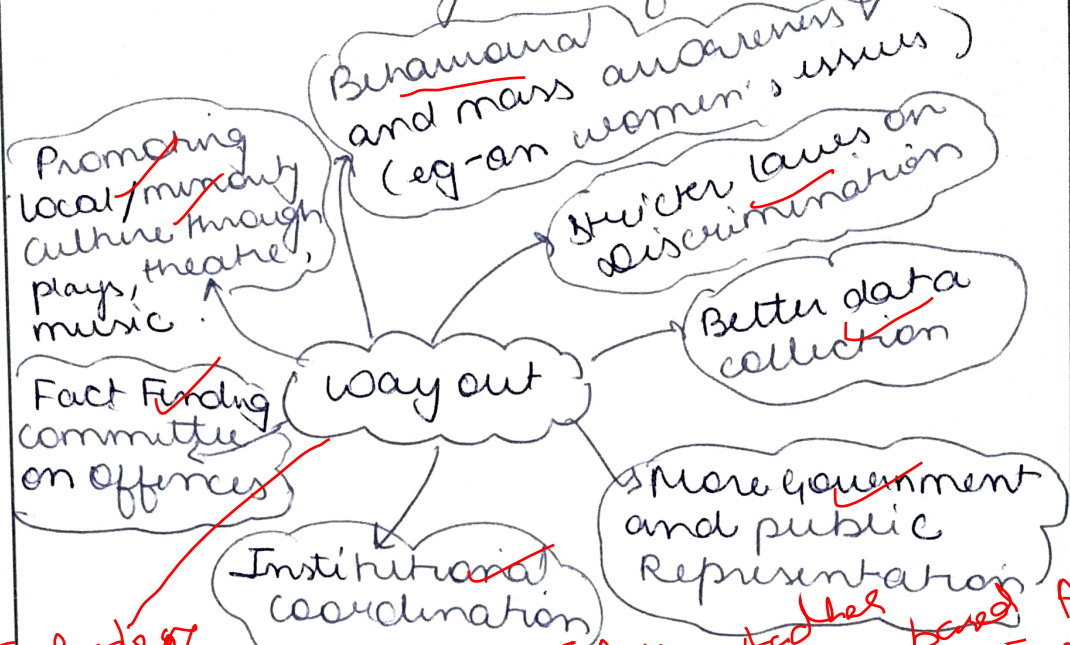
The government of India through its many schemes and policies has adopted a pro-welfare approach towards the vulnerable and the marginalised sections like Suganya Bharat Abhyam (for disabled people), Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, but there are several challenges and obstacles.

- ① Lack of proper consultation with stakeholders results in misuse of loopholes (example → Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act may encourage quacks since stricter provisions have been brought)
- ② Exclusion, intolerance against minority groups.
- ③ Political Appeasement and lack of on-ground action to make uses better.
- ④ Stigma removal is most important but hardly any focus on that.
- ⑤ Conflict between state and centre over jurisdictions like health, education
- ⑥ Resentment and anger by majority groups that feel wronged
- ⑦ Naxalism in LWE areas and Tribal areas.

examples needed

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

Thus, despite multiple number of schemes, ~~on ground~~ implementation is usually lacking. These can be tackled through the following.



Technology driven solution eg - JAM, Aadhar based PM Fasal Bima Yojana

The above would ensure implementation and behavioural change among people as well as government towards vulnerable sections.

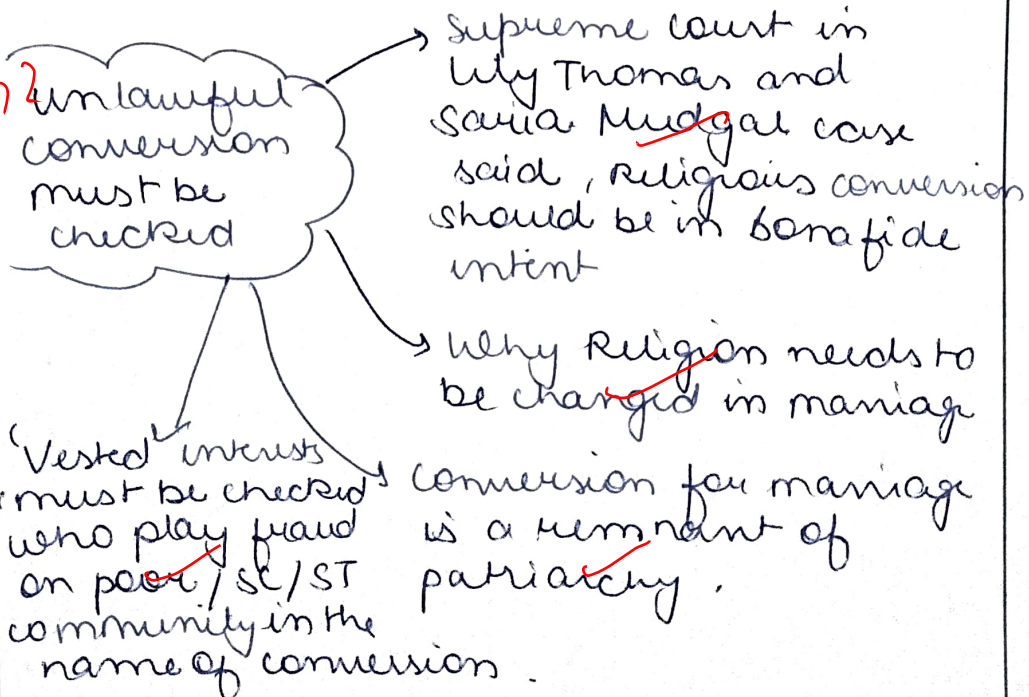
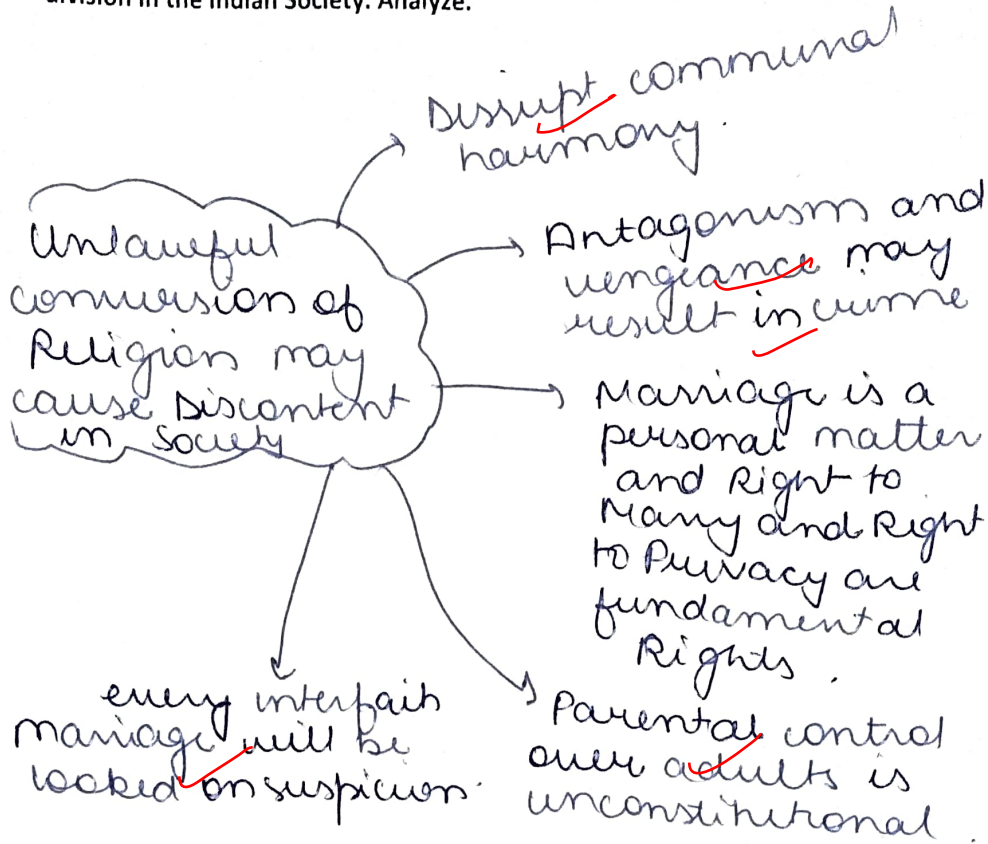
G.S / 12-3

(Please don't write anything in this space)

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

13. 'Prohibition of unlawful conversion of religion' ordinance may create widespread division in the Indian Society. Analyze.

(Please do not write anything in this space)



Intro ??
conclusion ??

3.0 / 12.5

(Please don't write anything in this space)

Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

14. Examine the social and cultural stereotypes that act as barrier for women empowerment in India. Also discuss the steps need to be taken to overcome these barriers.

(Please don't write anything in this space)

women face several kinds of social and cultural stereotypes that are embedded in the deep rooted Ideologies of Gender biasness and discrimination. These result as a barrier in their empowerment

STEREOTYPES

- Women as 'child bearers' and mothers and not 'bread winners'
- Women ought to be 'good mothers' and housewives and look after husband and their family
- Women cannot stay outside homes
- Denial of Agency (and transfer from Father to husband through Marriage rituals like KANYADAN)
- Denial of property Rights
- Considered 'Adivija' and impure (menstruating women denied access to temples, agricultural fields)
- Weak and Feeble (needing Male protection)
- Objectification and sexualisation to 'Male gaze'
- Exclusion from Public and Political sphere
- Denial of Education and health

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

Thus these have contributed to Discrimination throughout the lifecycle of a woman and have contributed to several problems like Infanticide, child mortality, domestic violence, Trafficking, sexual harassment etc.

Steps to Overcome these Barriers

- Constitutional provisions (like Right to Equality, Affirmative action for women and children)
- Gender sensitive education to all children
- Government schemes that encourage girl education (Beti Bachao, Beti, Padhao, Sukanya Samriddhi scheme)
- Supporting Training and employment to women (Nai Manzil, Nai Roshni)
- Support to helpless / Destitute Women (One-stop centre)
- self defence training and self-confidence training
- Mahila Shakti Kendras, Mahila Police Volunteers etc.
- Gender Budgeting to encourage more funds on women related issues

Political empowerment
↓
wider representation
↓
will lead to social & economic empowerment

Discrimination and stereotyping of women can only be tackled by active

please
write

please do
not write
anything
except the
question
number in
this space)

involvement of Government as well as
citizenry. Child Sex Ratio in Empowered
Action Group States (like Rajasthan,
Bihar) would have to be improved as
well.

Good

6/12.5

(Please
don't write
anything in
this space)

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

15. The presidency changes in the USA have a major shift in global geopolitics. Analyze from India's perspective.

With changes in Presidency from a Republican government to a Democrat party based regime, there are bound to be changes affecting the relations between India and USA and these will also reflect on the various policies in global arena

Areas of Renewed cooperation

- ① End of Ultra-isolationist approach of USA → will enable India and USA to work out a Trade Agreement (Bilateral Treaty) where India already enjoys a surplus of around 18 billion dollars.
- ② Boosting trade in services (India accounts for 5% of USA's service imports)
- ③ Attract more FPI and FDI
- ④ Big relief to Indian students, professionals and Technocrats due to possible easing of H1B visa Norms.
- ⑤ Softening trade war between China and USA. India can now probably import oil from Iran and Russia again
- ⑥ USA may grant relief to India over GSP (Generalised system of Preferences) for equitable access to US markets.

Geopolitical shift
 ↓
 India - US relations
 ↓
 India - Iran
 ↓
 add these points too

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

(Please don't write anything in this space)

⑦ Reduced contention over S-400 missile from Russia.

⑧ Areas of contention

- ① US government recently accused RBI of currency manipulation by purchasing dollars.
- ② USCIRF criticism of India on press freedom, media freedom.
- ③ Criticism of congress leaders on citizenship Amendment Act, Revocation of Article 370, NRC in Assam.

India will have to have a flexible as well as hard approach towards its National security interests. A return to a rules based order and multilateralism would be beneficial to both democracies due to aligned interests in the long run.

5.5/12.5