13

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURE SHOT TEST SERIES 2024 - FULL VERSION

GENERAL STUDIES

Sectional Test

Test - 7 (GS 3)

Time allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

ADMIN. NO.: 1 6 0 0 0 3 8 9

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SUBMISSION DATE: 22-08-2024

UPSE CSE 2025

AIR - 393

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:

*There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**. All the questions are compulsory.*

The number of marks carried by a question/ part is indicated against it. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks
Q1	/10	Q8	/10	Q15	/15
Q2	/10	Q9	/10	Q16	/15
Q3	/10	Q10	/10	Q17	/15
Q4	/10	Q11	/15	Q18	/15
Q5	/10	Q12	/15	Q19	/15
Q6	/10	Q13	/15	Q20	/15
Q7	/10	Q14	/15	Total	/250

Follow these steps to avail the facility of mentoring –

1. Go through the soft copy of your evaluated answer sheet and analyse all the comments and suggestions given.
2. Call **9717565805** between 11:00 am to 5:00 pm to fix your mentoring slot.
3. Please follow the mentoring appointment timings properly.

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language and Articulation						
Structure and Presentation						
Conceptual clarity and Content						
Number of Attempted questions						

Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions

(Don't write anything in this part)

VAJIRAM & RAVI

(Don't write anything in this part)

(Answer questions in NOT MORE than the word limit specified for each in the parenthesis. Content of the answer is more important than its length.)

1. Robust economic growth requires a complementation between the public and private investment. Examine the statement with reference to falling private investments in the Indian economy. **(10 marks, 150 words)**

Complementary public and private investment leads to accelerated economic growth and can help in achieving $5 trillion economy by 2030.

Falling private investment in Indian economy

1. Private investment is on decline from 2012-13 after the global economic crisis.

2. Gross fixed capital formation is affected by the declining private investment in Indian economy.

Reasons for declining private investment

① Demand decrease in the economy.

② Rising prices leading to reduced savings.

③ lack of support from the government.

Public-private-partnership should be leveraged to achieve economic growth.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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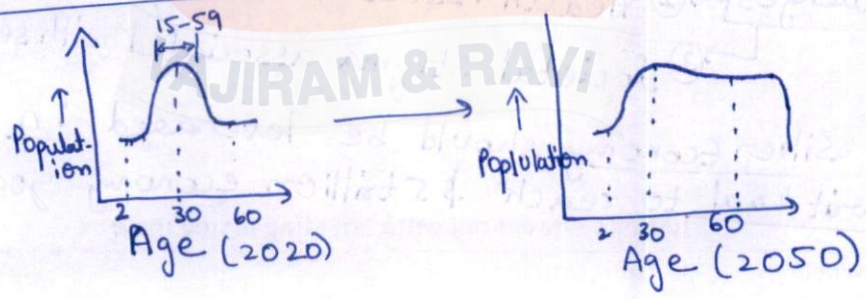
2. What is the Silver Economy? Discuss its significance in light of demographic changes in India. **(10 marks, 150 words)**

Silver Economy is the production potential, consumption potential of the elderly population in India. India is experiencing demographic dividend which will soon result in growing elderly population.

Silver Economy
- → Production amplification with help of experienced retired professionals
- → Burden on healthcare increases.
- → consumption capacity of elderly.

Significance of Silver Economy in light of demographic changes



1. In the period of demographic dividend the working age population is greater but

this will eventually result in increased old age population.

2. Leveraging working potential of elderly to boost GDP:
   → SACRED portal to discover working opportunities for elderly.

3. Societal cohesion, continuity as elderly are the key link in propogation of traditional values.

4. Traditional knowledge and experiences can be leveraged in various spheres like agriculture, education etc.

Challenges
→ ① lack of adequate opportunities for elderly.
→ ② Health issues and rising burden.
→ ③ Societal stigma associated with senescence.

Silver Economy should be leveraged in Amrit kaal to reach $5 trillion economy goal.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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3. What do you mean by off-budget borrowings? Discuss the various issues associated with them. **(10 marks, 150 words)**

Off-budget borrowings are the loans, advances taken by the government which are not accounted for in the outstanding debt and fiscal deficit, official budget documents.

Issues associated with off-budget borrowings

1. leads to false economic indicator measures like debt to GDP ratio, fiscal deficit etc.,

2. Though loans are taken indirectly by using public sector enterprises (PSEs) the amount is paid from the budget.
   ↳ leads to increased revenue expenditure.

3. States resort to off-budget borrowings to avoid breaching the upper limits of way and means advances (WMA).
   ↳ Ex:- Tamil Nadu used off-budget borrowings.

4. It leads to misutilisation of funds

i.e., using funds for other purposes rather than for stated objectives.

↳ Ex:- For bridging gap of deficit, to finance PM Awas Yojana, Grameen Yojana

5. It may alter the actual picture of economy of the country and give a notion of false growth.

Efforts to eliminate off-budget borrowings

→ Central government took a significant step towards fiscal transparency by ending the practice in budget 2022.

↳ Various state governments also pushed to eliminate off-budget borrowings.

Comptroller Auditor General (CAG) and finance commission has flagged irregularities and urged government to take adequate measures against OBB.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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4. Do you agree that the agriculture sector in India needs a separate budget for its transformation? Substantiate. **(10 marks, 150 words)**

Agricultural sector contributes to 18% of GVA (Gross-value added) and employees 46% of workforce.

Need for separate budget for agriculture sector

1. Agriculture based economy as almost half of the workforce is employed in agriculture. (~46%)
2. Will help in enhancing agricultural production.
3. Increases farmer's income and reduces farmer's suicides.
   ↳ Ms Swaminathan committee.
4. Streamlining agricultural sector by providing adequate support.

Against separate budget for agriculture

1. Separate budget causes lack of integration of agricultural sector with other sectors like food processing, animal husbandry etc,

2. May give more importance to agricultural subsidies than increasing agricultural productivity.

Though agriculture is back bone of the country separate budget may lead to isolation and disintegration of agricultural sector.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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5. 'Water use efficiency is the keystone in the sustainable development of the Indian agriculture sector.' Examine. **(10 marks, 150 words)**

India's ground water table is falling at the rate of approximately 30cm/year due to overuse of ground water for irrigation.

Water use efficiency is keystone in sustainable development of Indian agriculture sector.

1. Indian agriculture is largely rain-fed
   - ↳ Around 60% of Indian agriculture depends on rainwater.
   - ↳ This shows high dependency on monsoons.

2. Intensive agriculture is practiced where water intensive crops like rice, sugarcane are cultivated in relatively dry areas like Punjab due to irrigation and green revolution.
   - ↳ In Punjab watertable is falling at rate of 70-110 cm/year.

3. Dependence of irrigation facilities in increasing.
↳ hence demands water-use efficiency.

Measures to ensure water-use efficiency

1. Increased agricultural productivity with usage of less water.
   ↳ "Per Drop More Crop" scheme
2. Integrated watershed management for better water availability.
3. Shift to millets
4. Rainwater harvesting
5. Usage of drip, sprinkler irrigation
6. Usage of system of rice intensification for rice cultivation
7. Agro-climatic mapping

Water-use efficiency should be increased for sustainable development.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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6. What are the key features of the PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0? Discuss the significance of the PPP model in the success of such skilling programs.

(10 marks, 150 words)

PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana was launched to enhance the skills of Indian youth and skill development programmes for employment.

Key features of PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0

1. Establishing skill development centres with international standards to increase the employability of Indian youth in India & abroad.

2. Target for skilling 30 million youth by 2025.

Significance of PPP model in skilling programs

1. Can bridge the industry-academia skill gap.

2. Adequate investment support in skill development sector.

Thus PPP should be leveraged in skill development to bridge the 30 crore skill gap according to NSDC report in India.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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7. MSMEs in India play a pivotal role in GDP growth, job creation and boosting exports, yet they are plagued with a plethora of problems. Discuss the statement and suggest measures to ameliorate their conditions. **(10 marks, 150 words)**

MSMEs employ approximately 6 crore people and play a vital role in GDP growth.

Role of MSMEs

1. Provide opportunities for job creation, self-employment in various sectors.

2. Can help in bridging the manufacturing gap during India's transition from agriculture to services.
   ↳ "Missing industries" revival.

3. Export growth - MSMEs have immense potential in increasing India's exports from 2.4% to 10% by 2030.

Problems faced by MSMEs

1. Regulatory problems - rigid rules in regulation.

2. Registration of MSMEs is difficult and long process

3 Credit difficulties - lack of adequate credit support.

Measures

① Champions portal for registration of MSMEs.

② Credit linked incentives schemes to promote MSMEs.

Thus MSMEs potential has to be leveraged to reach export target of $2 trillion by 2030

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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8. There is a need for synergy between trade policy and industrial policy for the rapid growth of the manufacturing sector. Examine. **(10 marks, 150 words)**

Trade policy and industrial policy are backbones for promotion of exports and economic growth.

Need for Synergy

1. Export growth - target of $2 trillion by 2030
2. Meeting international standards for exports.
3. Improves the industrial policy by export targeted production measures.
4. Bridges industrial gap in economy.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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9. Domestic demand is more reliable over the export market for the Indian manufacturing sector.' Comment. **(10 marks, 150 words)**

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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Conclusion	
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10. Examine the challenges faced in port development under the landlord model in India and suggest improvements. **(10 marks, 150 words)**

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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Conclusion	
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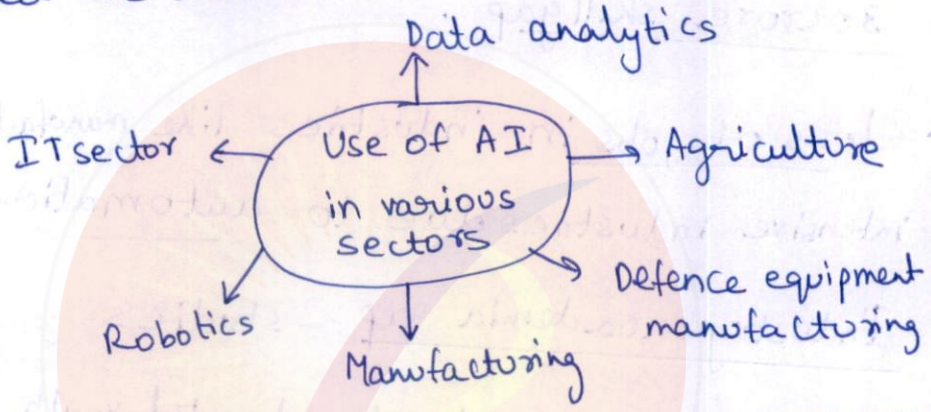
11. Examine the challenges and opportunities presented by AI in the Indian labor market. Also, suggest policy measures to ensure a balanced and inclusive workforce transition. **(15 marks, 250 words)**

According to IMF, around 30-35% jobs in the world by 2030 will be dependent on AI. Hence, adequate upskilling is needed to meet the demand.



Opportunities presented by AI in Indian labour market

1. Leveraging India's demographic dividend by proper upskilling.
   Ex:- National skill development corporation to upskill 30 million youth.

2. Growth of services sector by using AI in information technology, data analysis etc.,

3. Employment oppurtinities to youth graduated in technology.

Challenges

1. Skill gap :- NSDC estimates show 30 crore skill gap.

2. loss of jobs in industries like manufacturing intensive industries due to automation.

3. Industry-academia gap - studies show that only 50% of educated youth are employable.

4. lack of formal skilling - Only 5% of Indian population is adequately skilled in contrast to 95% in south korea.

5. lack of adequate measures to upskill the youth.

Policy measures to ensure a balanced and inclusive workforce

Policy measures

1. Skill development programmes with industry-academia cooperation
   - Ex:- PM kaushal Vikas Yojana, skill development centres.
2. Creating employment opportunities for the skilled youth and unskilled labour force.
3. Bridging the gender gap in workforce by upskilling women. (41% female labour force participate rate).

Thus, leveraging AI to create employment can boost the economic growth in the time of Amritkaal.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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Presentation	
Marks:	

12. Liberalized Indian economy expanded rapidly at the cost of social equity. Elaborate. Also, suggest measures for promoting inclusive economic growth.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Around 230 million population in India are below poverty line. The bottom 50% of population has only 2% of wealth.

Liberalized Indian Economy expansion at the cost of social equity

① Prevailing poverty and income inequality despite increased economic growth.

② Hunger and malnutrition still prevelant in India despite increased food production.
↳ Global hunger Index rank of India = 111/125 countries

③ Gender inequality and lack of participation in employment.

Eg :- 41% Female labour force participation rate as against 76% in male labour force participation rate

④ 92% of workforce in informal and unorganised sector.

⑤ Overdependence on agriculture.
↳ ~46% of employment in agricultural activities though its contribution is 18% of GVA.

⑥ Low wages allievating poverty.

Measures for promoting inclusive economic growth

1. Education and employment :-
↳ Providing technical education will help in reducing poverty by providing adequate employment opportunities.

2. Promotion of SHGs and MSMEs in rural areas..
↳ will help in building gender gap.

3. Skill development programs to increase employability.

4. Diversification from agriculture to other sectors.
   ↳ can help in building the industry gap

5. Increasing employment in manufacturing and services sectors.
   ↳ Ex:- NIPUN mission for construction workers.

Government measures
- → POSHAN abhiyaan - to tackle malnutrition.
- → MGNREGA - for employment opportunities.
- → Public distribution schemes
- → Promotion of women SHGs in rural areas.

Inclusive growth will help in overall increase in quality of life and reduce poverty.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
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Marks:	

13. Fiscal discipline is a cornerstone for prudent financial management, managing debts responsibly and ensuring sustainable economic growth. Analyse the statement and critically evaluate the achievements and challenges associated with the implementation of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) framework. **(15 marks, 250 words)**

Fiscal responsibility and Budget management framework provides for fiscal discipline by mandating production of ~~Medium-term~~ fiscal policy strategy statement, Medium term fiscal policy statement, Macroeconomic frame work statement.

Achievement of FRBM framework

1. Transparent fiscal reports production.
2. Helps in accurate assessment of economic situation
3. Reduce fiscal deficit to 2.5% of GDP.

4. Targets to achieve reduction in fiscal deficit and revenue deficit.

5. Macroecomic stability by reducing fiscal vulnerabilities

6. Increased investor confidence.

Challenges

1. Rigidity in targets
   ↳ doesn't change with changing economic situations.

2. Escape clause provides leeway to governments.

3. Adherence to targets affects the public expenditure.

4. Implementation challenges like lack of uniformity in all states.

Though FRBM act has succeeded in setting fiscal discipline but the targets couldn't be met due to disruptions caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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Marks:	

14. "Though the gig economy is creating lakhs of jobs in India, the workers face a variety of issues." Critically discuss with respect to the expanding Indian gig economy.

(15 marks, 250 words)

India's Gig economy is experiencing an upward trajectory and has a GDP potential of $1 trillion and can provide 90 million jobs.

Gig economy → includes platform workers, freelancers, Part-time workers.

→ around 60% of new employment generated in India is through gig economy.

Issues faced by Gig workers

1. Unregulated nature of work - as gigworkers are not formal workforce their working conditions are not regulated.

2. Demand-supply mismatch - the recent proliferation of quick commerce apps has created demand-supply mismatch.
   Eg:- Zepto, Blinkit etc.

3. Low wages and no security of jobs as the sector is unregulated.

4. Prone to external shocks like COVID-19 disruption of gig workforce.

5. Skill mismatch - lack of adequate skills in youth to be employed.

6. lack of adequate employment opportunities is leading to forced gig employment by educated youth.
   Ex: Engineers becoming delivery drivers.

7. No social security and occupational safety benefits leading to increased threat to job security.

8. Rising demographic dividend leading to rising demand for jobs in gig sectors.

Required measures

① Employment generation for skilled youth in non-farm sectors like textile, manufacturing etc.,

② Urban employment generation scheme on the lines of MGNREGA.

③ Providing social security measures, occupational safety by establishing a national registry.

Gig workers though contribute to economic growth face multitude of challenges which needs to tackled for inclusive growth

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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Marks:	

15. Explain the potential advantages and challenges associated with the practice of contract farming. Discuss suitable measures to address the concerns raised by different stakeholders in the implementation of contract farming in India.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Contract farming refers to the practise where a company forms an agreement with a farmer or group of farmer prior to production or after production of agricultural commodities.

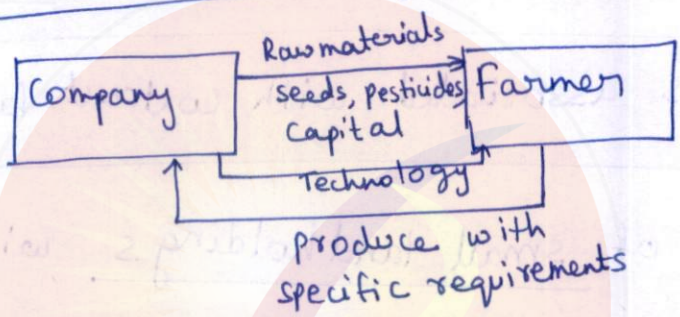

Fig:- Contract farming

Advantages of contract farming

1. Farmers can fix the price for the produce prior to production.
   - ↳ reduces market based vulnerabilities like low rate for produce.
2. Company can source the raw materials directly from farmers.
   - ↳ helps to maintain quality.
   - ↳ elimination of middle men.

3. Technology transfer enables farmers to increase productivity.

4. Reduced dependence on informal credit by farmers.
   ↳ reduces farmers suicides (Ms Swaminathan committee)

Challenges associated with contract farming

1. Issue of small land holdings with small and marginal farmers.
   ↳ avg. size of land = 1.08 hectares (2021)
   ↳ 86% of land holdings with small and marginal farmers.

2. May lead to exploitation of illiterate farmers by complex agreements.

3. Preference to big farmers ⇒ inequality.

Measures required in implementation of contract farming in India.

Measures to address concerns of farmers

1. Model contractual agreement to be devised to address exploitation concerns.
2. Rate fixed should not be less than Market price, minimum Support price.
3. Agreement made should have clauses for compensation in events of crop failure.

Concerns of companies

1. Pooling of land from small, marginal farmers for adequate produce.
2. Adequate support from government in case of failure of agreement.

Contract farming can help increase the income of farmers (doubling farmers income) and increase productivity.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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16. Direct benefit transfer can provide the much-needed resilience to Indian farmers. In this context, analyze the various benefits and bottlenecks of the PM-Kisan Yojana.
(15 marks, 250 words)

PM-Kisan Yojana is a scheme which provides income support of upto ₹6000 per year to farmers inorder to enable production.

Advantages of Direct benefit transfer to farmers

1. Provides institutional credit and reduces dependence on informal debt.
   ↳ According to Economic survey 2021, 50% of Indian farmers have debt in their name.
2. Increased production of food grains.
3. Income support helps in buying inputs like seeds, fertilisers, pesticides.
4. As 86% of landholdings are with small, marginal farmers, DBT provides them with required support for production.

Benefits of PM-Kisan Yojana

① Adequate input support to farmers.

② Kisan credit cards :-

↳ help in analysing the farm land and improves access to institutional credit i.e., loans from banks.

③ Soil health cards

↳ to analyse the requirement of fertilisers, pesticides by analysing soil sample.

Bottlenecks of PM-Kisan Yojana

1. Fake beneficiaries problem :-

↳ Many irregularities were found in the beneficiaries list of kisan yojana.

2. lack of proper land records registries.

- As the amount is given to only landholding farmers without producing land documents farmers can't reap benefits.
- land records with irregularities.

3. Misutilisation of income support by many individuals.

Measures taken by Government

- land records digitisation scheme.
- PM-SVAMVITVA scheme to map the land holdings in rural areas.
- aadhaar linkage to kisan credit cards to weed out fake beneficiaries

Direct Benefit transfer helps in increasing access to credit and thus increases farmer's income.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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17. Livestocks play a key role in improving the socio-economic conditions of the rural masses. In this light, discuss the potential opportunities for the livestock farmers in India. **(15 marks, 250 words)**

India has the world's largest livestock population and is the leading producer of milk, meat in the world. 25% of Global milk production is contributed by India.

Key role of livestock sector in improving socio-economic conditions

1. livestock sector provides an additional income source for rural population.

2. Mixed farming (agriculture + livestock) can help in enhancing farmer's income.
   ↳ Achieving target of doubling farmer's income.

3. Poverty allievation by adequate income from livestock rearing.
   ↳ 230 million below poverty line.

4. Export potential of livestock sector augments the growth.

5. Established cooperatives like AMUL can help farmers in livestock sector.

Potential oppurtunities for livestock farmers in India.

1. Cooperatives can be established to increase the growth.

2. Export support from government to livestock sector.

3. Demand for milk, meat in international and national market is on the rise.

4. New avenues of processing and production like - A2 milk, A2 ghee production are rising.

5. Food processing along with livestock rearing – MSME growth potential.

Thus, livestock sector can augment the income of rural economy and contribute to the growth of GDP and exports in AMRIT KAAL.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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18. What are the key challenges faced by food processing industries in India? Examine the significance of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes to the sector.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Food processing industry in India contributes 13% of exports and 6% of industrial investment. It has a potential for creation of 9 million jobs.

Challenges faced by Food processing industries in India

1. lack of adequate infrastructure like cold storage facilities, storage and transportation facilities.
   - According to a study by CIPHET, 20-25% of fruits and vegetables produced in India are lost due to lack of storage facilities.
2. lack of adequate research and development support.

3. Supply chain fragmentation - results in disruptions in transportation etc.,

4. lack of adequate support from the government and strict regulatory mechanisms.

5. Stricter food safety norms in the International markets and lack of infrastructure to fulfill those norms.

Ex :- Rejection of Indian exports of Sugar by European countries.

Significance of Production linked Incentive schemese in food processing sector

1. PLI scheme will help in building adequate storage, transportation facilities.

2. Helps in building branding, logo creation and marketing of products.

3. Targets ready to eat, ready to cook segments.

Government measures in food processing sector
- → PM SAMPADA Yojana
- → Mega food parks scheme for establishing food processing clusters.
- → Dedicated frieght corridors for transportation of goods.

Food processing industry can boost the export share of India which is currently only at 2.4% of Global share and create employment opportunities.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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19. Evaluate the concept of green growth as a sustainable development strategy for India. Examine the challenges associated with the implementation of green growth initiatives and propose innovative solutions to overcome those challenges.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Green growth refers to the economic growth with environmental sustainability.

The push towards green growth helps in achieving sustainable development.

Green growth and sustainable development strategy for India.

1. Push towards green energy usage and production.

   Ex:- Green Hydrogen mission, 50% renewable energy target by 2030.

2. 3 R's - Reduce, reuse, recycle of waste.

3. Promotion of sustainability by

reducing plastic waste, e-waste etc,

4. Phase down of coal and use of renewable sources like solar, wind etc, for energy production.

5. Environmental preservation by various measures like soil protection, afforestration, reduction in GHGs etc,

Challenges

1. Push towards green economy leads to increased inequality.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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20. What are the challenges faced by Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in highway projects? Do 'Hybrid Annuity Model' (HAM) overcome those challenges? Discuss. **(15 marks, 250 words)**

Public Private partnerships (PPP) in road and highway projects have helped to increase the construction of highways, toll collection increase.

PPP in highways
- ① Build ~~Toll~~ operate-transfer model
- ② Hybrid annuity model.
- ③ Toll-operate-collection model.

Challenges faced by PPP

1. lack of adequate funds and support for government.

2. Rigid completion deadlines hampered the performance of projects.

3. Incomplete projects due to administrative bottlenecks; low quality raw materials usage.

4. lack of profits to the private sector.

5. Rigidity in agreements.

Hybrid Annuity model

① Combines two models i.e., EPC (Engineering, procurement and Construction) and Build operate transfer model.

② In this model 40% of expenditure cost is paid by government.

③ 10-15 years lease is given

to private sector for building, operation and maintenance of the roads.

3. Results were better compared to other PPP models

Thus PPP models help in building infrastructure and reduces burden on government.

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Space for Rough Work

Space for Rough Work