

# **G|SCORE**

**An Institute for Civil Services**

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## **IAS TOPPER'S**

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## **SIDDHARTH ATTRI**

**AIR - 882  
(CSE 2022)**

## **GENERAL STUDIES**



**8448496262**



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**APPLIED GS**

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Q.	Marks	Instructions to Candidate
1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There are 20 questions.</li></ul>
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1. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name SIDDHARTH ATIRI

2. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**REMARKS**

Re  
Q1.

\*

Re

- Q1. As per World Water Development Report, nature-based solutions which are also aligned with the principles and aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - can offer answers to our most pressing water-related challenges. In this context, elaborate on the issue of water scarcity and discuss nature-based solution for water conservation and management.

(12.5 Marks)

In Meghalaya Bamboo pipes are used for years for irrigation. Highlight why we should revisit traditional water based techniques for our water woes.

Issues related to water scarcity:-

\* Quantitative

- Climatic vagaries like El Nino
- Global warming
- Diesel pumps depleting water tables
- Desertification of semi-arid & dry deciduous areas.
- Interregional disparity



Remarks

\* Qualitative

- Arsenic, nitrate, cadmium contaminated.
- Leachate from landfills.
- Salt water intrusion in coastal areas.

The following nature based solutions can be used :-

- Kuttarsad farming. in saline soils in India.
- Bamboo based drip irrigation.

Traditional tanks like - Stepwells (Baolis), Jhads, Tanks.

Tee stupas and Zings. being used in Ladakh area.

Small check dams made from brick & mortars.

- Mangroves Planting Millets whose roots can absorb heavy metals.

These methods served us for thousands of years.

Remarks

Q2. While robotics and automation technologies may disrupt our lives in the future, these could also potentially create avenues and opportunities for individuals and businesses.  
Comment. (12.5 Marks)

Robotics and automation work on the principles of machine learning & neural networks.

Fears are that they might eventually take over human tasks mainly which are low skilled and repetitive and cause widespread unemployment. Union Minister Manmohan Singh cited this reason when he objected to Driverless taxis.

Other fears include robots becoming sentient and destroying human civilization.

These threats are unfounded if there are adequate legal & ethical

Remarks

safeguards in place.

Avenues & Opportunities:-

- Solve an ageing population as seen in Japan & South Korea.
- Lead to upskilling of human capital.
- Application medical industry & Biotech
- Can replace humans in hazardous jobs like mining, factories.
- Interactive learning in schools.

Countries like China are heavily investing in AI as it is the next great avenue for Humans

(32)

you should adequately explain challenges posed and remedial measures also -

Remarks

- Q3. Smart water solutions such as improving water management systems and networks are critical to address water crisis in urban areas and also challenges of urbanization. Analyze the statement in the light of water scarcity issue plaguing Indian cities.

(12.5 Marks)

Recently, Cape Town, was faced with severe water crisis, underscoring the need to manage water availability in our cities more effectively.

Currently more than 43% of urban population is present in just <sup>500</sup> census towns thus concentrated urban settlements. Haphazard morphology, poor sewage, & non-existent water harvesting structures are causes of water scarcity. This is accentuated by climatic vagaries.

Thus smart solutions derived from global best practices are required like -

Be more  
specific  
and  
illustrate -

Remarks

- Sponge city concept of China to absorb excess water.
- Funnel shaped designs to channel water to parks or open areas - eg. D. Amsterdam.
- Tidal barriers to prevent massive influx of tidal water - eg. Thames Barrier.
- Smart metering of urban supply.
- Larger capacity storm drains.
- Rainwater harvesting to be mandatory
- Legal provisions for use of diesel pumps.
- Populist measures like free supply should not be taken. Indian cities will witness the largest rural-Urban migration.
- Our water infrastructure should be geared for it.

(6)

Important demands of the question have been addressed

Remarks

Remarks

Q4. Do you think India is prepared for extreme weather events in cities? Give your opinion.  
Also, suggest some strategies to tackle urban flooding. (12.5 Marks)

### Haphazard morphology

exponential growth of Migrant population has left our cities extremely vulnerable to extreme climate events.

#### Recent examples

- Urban flooding in Kochi in recent Kerala floods.
  - Bangalore floods of 2016 accentuated by mismanagement of Cauvery river water.
  - Filling up modern underpasses in Millennium city of Gurgaon.
- These events show that even our most modern cities can't stand up to the wrath of nature.

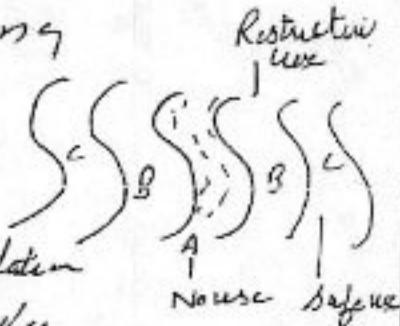
Thus holistic strategies need to be evolved to balance urban flooding with scarcity. These include:

Devotion more effective  
weather

Remarks

- Sponge city concept of China which uses absorbent materials & large storm drains.
- Funnel shaped morphology where excess water can be channelled to open areas like parks as done in Netherlands.
- Smart Dams and weirs with large canal network to help channel excess water.
- Mandatory Water harvesting
- Flood Plain Zoning.
- Adherence to Coastal Regulation Zone rules & Wetland rules

Flooding if tackled can help address scarcity problems.



(4)

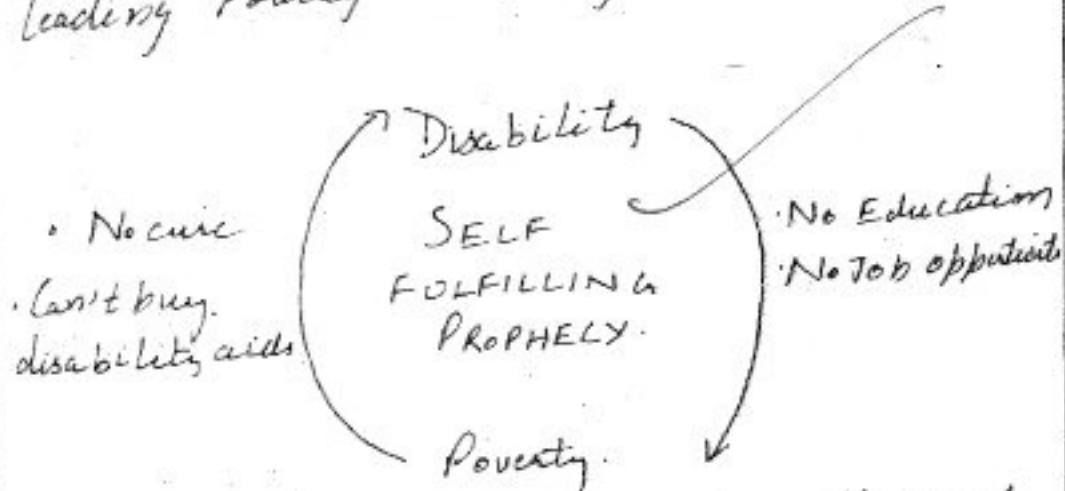
Remarks

Introduce urban flooding and discuss its causes also -

Remark

Q5. Disability and poverty fuel each other in a brutal cycle of hardship and deprivation, which is hard to escape. Elaborate. Also, highlight the measures needed to make approach towards the disabled more inclusive. (12.5 Marks)

2% of Indian population suffers from some kind of disability. Disability leading Poverty are closely related.



Absence of legal safeguards and small public apathy accentuates this cycle. For example:-

- Lack of disable friendly offices or temples.
- Lack of learning aids
- Lack of social security

The Government has taken positive steps to address this issue.

Remarks

It has two components :-

- Awareness - Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan
- Legal - Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill.

(+)  
 You need to draw it  
 greater detail  
 steps taken by government

Accordingly, Awareness components includes making buildings & transport disable friendly, in order to let them develop their capability.

Legal component include following rights based approach by providing jobs & education.

Civil society needs to be actively involved to complement govt. efforts.

R&D in aids for disabled should be promoted. e.g. Jaipur foot.

Disabled are an untapped human resources whose capabilities need to be harnessed.

Remarks

Q6. There has been a constant attempt towards making Panchayati Raj Institutions more egalitarian, to do away with the hampers done by the caste system, gender inequality and economic disparities. In this context, discuss the challenges in effective implementation of inclusive governance through Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(12.5 Marks)

Dr Ambedkar's opposition to Panchayati Raj rested on the fact that it would entrench prevailing inequalities. Thus even though 23rd & 24th amendments were landmark in democratic decentralization & improving vulnerable, several challenges remain to implement it in spirit :-

- Panchayat Pati Syndrome - in seats received for women. Recently in several constituencies pictures of husbands were put alongside women on EVMs.
- SC/ST candidates are those propped up by upper landed class.

Remarks

- Leverages are at Panchayat level in case of PDS & MNRELA wages.
- Khap Panchayats have huge leverage.
- Gram Sabha are <sup>overpowered</sup> bypassed under PESA.
- Both capturing by affluent castes  
Recently government has undertaken Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan mainly to empower the panchayats. It is an awareness campaign meant to generate knowledge regarding how a Panchayat needs to function and the powers states need to devolve. DBT, SHG & Cooperative movement can also help empower vulnerable communities.

Remarks

Re:

your analysis stand  
 focus on socio-cultural  
 problems & remedial  
 democratic  
 decentralization  
 measures shall be  
 carried out  
 accordingly

Q7. As per India inequality report 2018: Widening gaps, the top 1% of Indian population accounted for 22% of income in 2016. In this regard, mention the implications of income inequality, and suggest some measures that can be taken to address the issue.

(12.5 Marks)

Thomas Picketty raised this issue of widening inequality. Even though India's HDI is 0.65, its inequality adjusted HDI is about 0.55 pointing to wider problems.

### Implications of income inequality:-

- GDP growth slows as there is no consumption from Middle & lower income groups.
- Top 1% gains disproportionate economic & political power.
- Employment Economy gets stuck in Agricultural & Low skill manufacturing sectors.
- Crony Capitalism gets promoted.
- Government is subsidy bill incomes

Remarks

India is a market economy.

Q8.

New Public Management demands market forces help address this with Government lending a helping hand :-

(3)

What are  
cultural, political  
and social implications  
of increasing  
income inequality?

JAM trinity coupled with Mudra  
Yojana. to boost credit availability

Improving Banking penetration through  
Regional Rural Banks & Small Finance  
banks.

Promoting Entrepreneurship - startup India.

Rationalising wages. MNREGA, Wage Code  
Bill.

Promoting upskilling to push surplus  
population in Manufacturing or services

We know  
in this regard  
India has a huge demographic  
dividend which needs to be harvested.

Remarks

Reu

Q8. The Supreme Court issued a notice to the Centre over a public interest plea seeking direction to establish guidelines to prevent torture, cruelty, inhuman or degrading treatment of jail inmates. In this context, discuss the need of prison reforms and corrective measures in this direction. (12.5 Marks)

*Purva facie cases of Prison deaths and custodial deaths are not new to India's prison setup.*

*Article 21 ensures liberty & dignity to all. In spite of this India is yet to ratify UN Torture Convention.*

Need for Prison reforms:-

- Indian Prisons are 17% overcapacity with 67% untrialled.
- Unhygienic cells and unpalatable food.
- Prison violence among inmates.
- Police often make prisoners make forced confessions.

Remarks

- Women prisons are understaffed.
- Women hygiene not taken care of.
- Denial of conjugal rights to Prisoners.
- Mutual legal assistance denied by other countries
- Prisoners, apart from having

(6A)

*See also* Prisons a deterrent function also have a directive role. Justice Mulla has called for adopting a Prison Manual.  
Other reforms :-

Open Prisons to reduce overcrowding.

- Anti Torture legislations.
- More women constables
- ELTV cameras.
- Inconvenient bail for undertrials who have completed half their sentence.

Prisons thus form an integral part of overall reforms on Criminal justice system.

Remarks

- Q9. Do you think simultaneous elections for both the central and state legislatures can be implemented given the federal nature of Indian democracy is guaranteed by the constitution? Examine the various issues involved therein. (12.5 Marks)

The case of simultaneous elections is not only about desirability but also about feasibility.

Federal nature of India is not a major factor here because, even in case of premature dissolution of any assembly / Lok Sabha, the newly elected one will be able to serve the remaining term. There is no case of center encroaching upon states' domain or vice versa. Moreover such instances are rare as coalition politics have matured.

Thus in light of rising of election expenses, the simultaneous

Remarks

elections have a case.

Q10

However issues involved:-

- Disconnect b/w voter & politician for 5 years.
- Party employees will lose job.
- Massive deployment of forces in one go.
- Voter can't distinguish b/w national & state issues

A middle path with elections spaced at 2.5 year interval may be adopted.



Get more important arguments both for and against simultaneous, see culled  
Low Commission, see culled  
recommendations, see culled

Remarks

Q10. It is said that parliamentary control over the executive in India exists more in theory than in practice. Examine. (12.5 Marks)

In Parliamentary democracy.

like India, Executive is chosen from Legislature (Lok Sabha).

Naturally, in case of Absolute majority (222 seats) Executive likely to prevail over Lok Sabha. The Speaker who is also from majority may interpret bills wrongly as money bill to bypass Rajya Sabha. However this is not always true. Post 1980 there have been only 2 governments commanding absolute majority.

Remarks

Coalition era politics have

(3) ensured Executive doesn't forget accountability.

During <sup>UPA</sup> NDA era - CPI was

providing outside support and often dealt heavy criticism during FDI in Multibrand retail. The government was also subjected to no confidence vote.

Apart from this Rajya Sabha is always there to check majoritarian ambitions

thus Parliamentary control is

intact.

Remarks

Q11. "While Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 is a fairly standard western approach towards Alternate Dispute Resolution, the Lok Adalat system constituted under National Legal Services Authority Act, 1987 is a uniquely Indian approach". Compare the two and examine their working.

(12.5 Marks)

Arbitration is being pushed by pressure of the state in order to reduce pressure on the Judiciary. The two acts are meant to fulfill this purpose:

In both the acts the arbitrator creates a congenial environment. There are no legal representatives involved (Even if there are, they assist the parties rather than fight the case). The award is binding under both the acts if accepted by both. Else the case goes to sessions court for Lok Adalat or to High court for Arbitration & Conciliation act.

Now the primary purpose of ACA, 1996 is to solve Corporate cases and it aims to make India

Remarks

Q12

what is unique  
Indian about  
the Adalat,  
also has  
evaluated after  
these institutions  
and are performing  
judicial measures?

an arbitration hub - This is to avoid

the Western bias in present day arbitration centres like London.

High court too can be arbitrator.

Whereas, Lok Adalat is the

modern version of Indian legal system where the Arbitrators help solve petty cases like land grab, petty theft, marriage related cases. (All upto a value involving 20,000). The aim is to

localise the dispute & amicably solve it.

There are no legal professionals in a formal setting. The Arbitrators include Social Worker, legal practitioner or a judge.

Thus the system is uniquely Indian.

Remarks

Re:

Q32. Agricultural science and technology, Information and communication technologies (ICT) and other new technologies need to be targeted towards providing solutions to the issues threatening global food security. In this context, examine and discuss the initiatives taken by the government under 'National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A)' in this regard? (12.5 Marks)

Agriculture if endowed with adequate modernization can serve as prime mover of economy.

The NeGP-A aims to deliver fruits of IIT, science & R&D to agriculture.

Various initiatives :-

For education

- DD Kisan channel.
- SensAgri to promote sensor based precision agriculture.
- Kisan Vigyaan Centers.

Market development

- e-NAM to link all the Mandis.
- Agri Raftaar programme to promote entrepreneurship.

Remarks

Input assistance.

Q13.

- Mobile Labs to measure soil composition & give Soil Health Cards.

Precision irrigation to improve more crop per drop.

- SMS based weather alerts.

Credit

- Kisan credit card scheme integrated with JAM trinity

- Banking Mitras to provide last mile penetrations of banking services.

- Linking Agricultural universities with Fibreoptic grids to spur R&D.

Agriculture needs to clock over 4% growth. These initiatives will be the key.

Remarks

Replies

Q13. Pan-India electronic trading portal, National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) can become a game changer, but the mechanism has inherent structural limitations. What are these limitations? Also, critically analyze the challenges faced by e-NAM and propose solutions to overcome them in the context of unified agricultural market. (12.5 Marks)

e-NAM aims to rectify.

The buyer-seller mismatch by creating a unified national market.

The key is to bypass now almost redundant ADMC regulations. The system however will face initial teething problems:-

- Providing seamless backbones of connectivity is a challenge.
- Bharatnet, which is the backbone of this project is not yet fully operational
- Lack of cold chains or transportation medium (roads, railways) to then deliver the produce over large distance.

Remarks

- Farmers still find APMCs as more convenient, thus farmer literacy is a challenge.

Q14.

- Prone to price speculation.

### Solutions

- Creating a seamless network first -  
Farmer Library (Digital Sahakarata).

- SAMPADA programme to create integrated cold chains to aid this project.

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- Promoting contract farming as bulk purchases are convenient & less vulnerable to price fluctuations.

- eNAM is a landmark initiative. perhaps a pilot can be run to test its effectiveness

5½

### Remarks

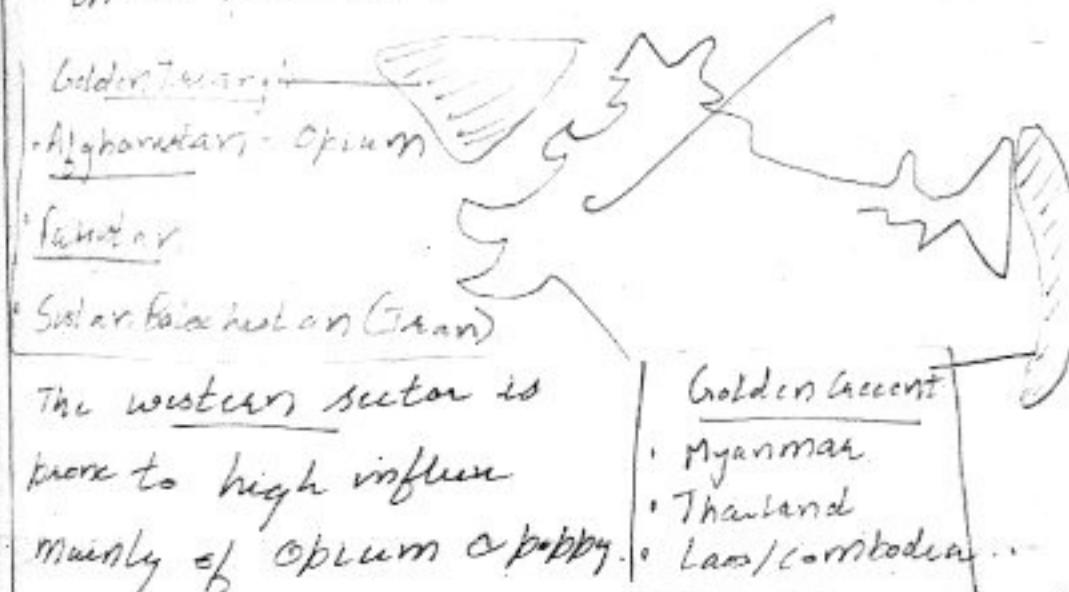
In the video, briefly explain how agricultural produce is being marketed presently -

Re:

Q14. India's both eastern and western borders are highly affected by menace of drug trafficking across the borders. It has devastated life of many youth in these Border States and also become a challenge to internal security. Discuss. Also, discuss the role of non-state actors contributing to this menace.

(12.5 Marks)

The Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent have ruined the lives of many on our borders.



The western sector is more to high infiltration mainly of Opium & poppy.

They are easily thrown across border fences at night. Border areas of Punjab like Taran Taran, Firozpur etc. are among worst affected.

In the Eastern sector, the infiltration is mainly due to porous

Remarks

& mainly forested.

Q1

Recently NIA linked these to

hawala transactions which are

facing terror financing. Illicit

arms trade is also getting an impetus.

Non-State actors are major  
contributors:-

- Farmers living in border areas involved  
in drug trade.

- Tribal population leverages Free Movement  
Regime across Myanmar border.

- Within the country Local dealers will  
make <sup>small</sup> batches of drugs & transport  
far & wide.

Drugs are a major menace that  
needs to be curbed to save our youth

Remarks

Rem

Q15. "There is an urgent need to institutionalize social audit for major welfare schemes as a large part of the government's budget is spent on them". What are the benefits of social audit? Citing relevant examples, bring out the loopholes in its implementation. Also, suggest some measures for its improvement.

(12.5 Marks)

Recently, Meghalaya became the first state to have a dedicated Social Audit Law setting precedent for others.

### Benefits

- Bottommost hierarchy of officials can be held accountable.
- Those affected by schemes drive the process.
- Tan Survya helps to bring out all the past records to be scrutinized by locals. Mao door Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) in Rajasthan pioneered this.
- Awareness levels increase in common people.

Remarks

Loopholes:-

Q1

- Professional auditors know what to look for in an audit, something common villagers won't
- Linking findings to suitable legal actions is a challenge - For example how to differentiate between genuine errors or malafide actions
- Records may be withheld by officials.

Thus In delhi we saw, there was a need for a dedicated RTI act to make social audits effective.

Thus institutionalisation is the key. There can social audit authorities with members from general public who can drive the process. (5)

Dedicate one paragraph to explain how social audit

takes place step by step -

be more specific and elaborate in suggesting remedial measures

Remarks

R

Q16. How can Start Up India programme help in filling the gap of missing medium scale enterprises which are vital for employment generation? (12.5 Marks)

India is at a demographic sweet spot and has the 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest startup ecosystem. However its manufacturing enterprises have disproportionate presence in large scale, small scale & micro scale.

Role of Start-up India in spinning.  
Medium scale :-

- Spinning sectors which are both technology intensive and require labour as well. e.g. Mobile phone assembly, auto components.
- Creating employment in secondary urban areas and also urban rural fringes as land costs are prohibitively high near cities.

Remarks

- Sector specific schemes like  
 rebate of state levies (Textile & leather)  
 & Technology Upgradation Fund Trust  
 can be availed.
- Apprenticeship Protsahan Yojana can  
 be clubbed with Start up India to  
provide upskilling.

Medium sector has the  
 scale of ~~too~~ and the nimbleness.  
 It is the key to fill crucial gaps  
 mainly in manufacturing sector which  
 needs to absorb excess labour.

Start up India can help small &  
 micro industries to scale up.

4

Get factual clarity about

Remarks

: provisions of start up India  
 program. Explain what is "missing  
 middle"?

Q5. The introduction of JAM trinity and MUDRA yojana has given a timely boost to the cause of financial inclusion and economic empowerment of women in India. Explain the statement and also throw light on why considerable challenges remains to women empowerment in India.

(12.5 Marks)

At time when women entrepreneurship

& SHG/cooperative movement is gaining pace, JAM trinity & MUDRA yojana have come as much required boost to sustain them.

These two provide a bottom up, market driven approach towards women empowerment. A financially empowered woman with self sufficient in her resources, is less dependent on external solutions & institutions like NGOs/organisations. They generated new sense of confidence.

Women can now pool in their savings and scale up their own activity. For eg. In west Bengal

Remarks

Women cooperatives are now marketing  
minced fish meat over commercial sites

However challenges remain:-

- Lack of credit discipline.
- Women being landless don't have collateral.
- Managerial skills are lacking.
- SHGs & cooperatives are dominated by a few.
- Digitally not literate.

Digital literacy, & women centric land reforms are the key to further leverage these 2 schemes.



Briefly introduce MUDRA  
and JAN-trinity!

Remarks

Focus also on socio-cultural challenges related to women empowerment -

Q18. Welfare schemes have been at the heart of the state's poverty eradication agenda in India since 1970's. However, the 21<sup>st</sup> century has seen a qualitative shift in the way these welfare programs have been envisioned and implemented. Illustrate. (12.5 Marks)

India's poverty rates have drastically reduced from 60% in 1970s to about 21% today, thanks to market driven approaches to poverty. However, the roots of this were laid in earlier approaches which were mostly top heavy. State had a major role and often controlled dispersal of resources. For example 'Food for work' programme. The focus was also on legal measures like Land reforms which aimed at heavy handed constitutional measures to rectify historic wrongs.

Remarks

- The 21<sup>st</sup> century has seen bottoming up welfare driven approach and involves facets like :-
- Microlevel planning made possible by ~~73<sup>rd</sup>~~ & 74<sup>th</sup> amendments.
  - Empowerment - Direct Benefits transfer, through JAM Trinity.
  - Making common man an employment generator rather than employment seeker. e.g. Startup India.
  - Focus on Cooperative / SHGs to let people pool their own resources.  
We see a paradigm shift in how poverty is addressed. (42)

## Remarks

overall, get an understanding of difference between agent-based welfare and patronage-based welfare.

Q19. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) of the US government keeps millions of people from falling into poverty each year. Write a note on the SNAP and discuss if similar program can work for India. (12.5 Marks)

### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance

Programme (SNAP) is based on giving food stamps to unemployed, old and poor people which can be exchanged for nutrition rich food packets.

The programme not only addresses hunger but also balanced nutrition. It is based on Colourful Plate Concept. India too needs to incorporate

nutrition component. MoHCD called for introduction bio fortification and also nutrition tablets (supplements).

However several issues are involved:-

Remarks

- High costs
- Children will lose taste of proper food.
- Hoarding or blackmarketing of food stamps & food tablets.

India should move towards locally available food options like Locally grown fruits, poultry etc. as a first step toward diversification.

4½

Does India have programmes similar to SNAP? In what aspects do they differ?

Remarks

Q20. Elaborate on India's nuclear 'no first use' policy. What are the challenges to its relevance in current times?  
(12.5 Marks)

India's nuclear doctrine states

'No First Use But Massive Retaliations'

Numerous sanctions post Pakistan's

and an increasingly hostile neighbourhood  
were the reasons for this doctrine.

Underlying principles

- First use will face international condemnation
- Credible second strike capability is the key involving deployment of 'Nuclear Triad'
- Pakistan, India's main adversary is unlikely to inflict massive damage in first strike owing to its low yield short range tactical missiles & India's own Missile Shield (PAcD & AAD)

Remarks

Battle scenarios are evolving

posing challenges to this doctrine:-

- Pakistan's Tactical nukes (Hafiz missiles) pose a dilemma for India as they are meant to be used on battlefields.
- India's nukes are high yield.  
Terrorists may create Dirt Bomb & we are never sure if they are backed by state.
- China too has diluted its no first use policy in the latest CPC white paper.

This doctrine needs to be designed according to varied situations.

A blanket 'no first use' is indeed impractical.

Remarks