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 SHAPING BRILLIANCE

APSC Mains 2023 TS - 13 (GS Paper 3)
Duration – 3 Hrs

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(Please fill your details correctly)

Medium:

 English ☒

 Assamese ☐

INDEX NUMBER			INSTRUCTIONS
Q.NO.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained.	
1	10		Please read each of the following instruction carefully before attempting the questions: • There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH. • All questions are compulsory. • The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. • The answers must not exceed 150 words for 10 marks and 250 words for 20 marks. • Content is more important than the number of words. • Answers must be written in the medium authorised in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorised one. • Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off
2	10		
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14	15		Remarks: Signature of the Student: <i>Dipankar Das</i>
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16	15		
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18	15		
19	15		
20	15		
TOTAL	250		



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Brief report of Performance Evaluation of student in the paper					
	Poor	Average	Good	Very good	Excellent
Understanding the context and demand of the questions					
Relevancy of the content					
Structure and flow of the answer					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Body					
(c) Conclusion					
Subject knowledge					
Language of the answer					
Presentation					
(a) Underline to the keywords					
(b) Use of flowcharts or diagrams					
(c) Paragraph limits and overall					
Understanding of directives					
Factual correctness					
Overall performance					

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Detail Feedback

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Q1. The Horticulture sector, though has potential to transform agriculture landscape of country, is beset with several challenges. Examine. (10 marks/150 words)

Horticulture (plantation of fruits & vegetables) is one of the allied sectors of agriculture in India.

In India, agriculture contributes 18% to GDP but only employs 44% of its workforce. Thus it points to hidden unemployment in agriculture which is reflected in high no. of poor in India and increasing farm distress. Horticulture can play a major role in transforming agriculture landscape in India.

Advantages of Horticulture

- 1) It can provide supplementary income to farmers, especially the marginalised farmers in remote, rural areas

- ii) Improve the fertility of land due to crop rotation. e.g. vegetable farming to complement rice cultivation in Assam.
- iii) Can provide dignity of labor to and improve women's participation in farm sector.
- iv) Fruits & vegetables are necessary for optimum nutrition of public.

However some challenges in Horticulture sector are

- i) Lack of awareness amongst farmers.
- ii) Poor cold storage & transportation infrastructure.
- iii) High use of chemicals can make horticulture harmful to fertility & health of public & land.

Thus, a calibrated approach including focus on organic based farming along with sensitisation & support to farmers can help transform agriculture sector.

Q2. The 'One Nation, One Ration Card' (ONORC) scheme is a huge step forward in empowering the poor and disadvantaged, yet it faces obstacles in terms of design and implementation. Discuss. (10 marks/150 words)

The public distribution system of India has been instrumental in ensuring the food security and nutrition of Indian people, especially the poor. Article 47 of Indian Constitution calls upon the government to promote health and nutrition of its people.

In support of this, One nation one ration card is an important step to achieving optimum level of nutrition in country.

Advantages of ONORC

- i) It identifies the beneficiaries of NFSA, independent of their location.
- ii) Beneficiaries can get basic minimum nutrition in any PDS shop in country.
- iii) Promotes inclusivity of welfare scheme.

and universality of its recipients.
However, it faces obstacles in terms
of design and implementation.

Challenges of ONORC

- i) Politically motivated opposition
- ii) Challenge in identifying the actual recipient as the beneficiary location can keep changing.
- iii) Does not visualise the operational challenges.

Thus, ONORC being a great tool
for upholding constitutional provisions
of DPSPs must be implemented with
due efficiency to maximise its benefits.

Q3. Climate change is a threat to food and nutrition security of the world. Examine the impact of climate change on agriculture. Suggest ways to make agriculture sustainable and climate resilient. (10 marks/150 words)

Global warming induced climate change had started impacting the economic and social well-being of humanity from beginning of 21st Century. According to the IPCC 6th report on climate change, the average global temperature has already risen by 1.1°C from pre-industrial era resulting in extreme weather, health hazards and food crisis around the world.

Climate is adversely affecting agriculture and allied industries

[Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture]

1) Due to climate change the predictability of weather, especially in coastal areas

and monsoon climate countries like India has decreased

- ii) Often floods and draughts wreak havoc on the agriculture setup of a country. Eg. failure of rabi crops in India in 2022.
- iii) These unpredictabilities impose economic cost to the development due to inflation of food prices causing hunger crises.

Ways to make agriculture sustainable

- i) Adopting climate smart technology like micro-irrigation.
- ii) Financial instrument like crop insurance can mitigate climate change induced losses
- iii) Land reforms and mechanisation of farming

Thus, application of best practices from around the world can make agri. resilient.

Q4. The food processing industry has emerged as a high-growth and high-profit sector due to its immense potential for value addition. In this context, discuss 'Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry. (PLISFI)'. (150 words/10 marks)

India has historically been a agrarian economy. At the time of independence, it contributed more than 70% of GDP. Currently, it contributes 18% of GDP but is the chief occupation of rural India.

Green revolution in 1960s & 70s had been beneficial to large farmers mainly. The marginalised farmers with small holdings couldn't capitalise the green revolution. In this context, the food processing industry has high potential for inclusive growth and value addition. The Production linked incentive scheme for food processing can provide growth to marginalised farmers as well.

Advantages of PLI scheme in food processing

1. It will attract private investment

in agriculture sector resulting in better price realisation to small farmers through contract farming.

- ii) Private parties / processors can invest in improving the efficiency of the land and its productivity.
- iii) It will ensure income security of small as well as large farmers.
- iv) Processed products with value addition can be marketed for export as well.
- v) Prevent wastage of perishable farm products. E.g vegetable like tomato can be processed into puree and Ketchup.

Thus, food processing promises a better growth of agriculture with income security and growth of manufacturing industry in agro-sector.

Q5. Solar power sector is not only leading the mitigation efforts against climate change, but the innovations in solar power can also accelerate adaptation of agriculture to a new reality of changed climate. Discuss. (10 marks/150 words)

As a result of global climate change countries have discussed and pledged action against carbon emission. India has committed to its "Panchamrit" strategy in COP26 and LT-LED strategy in COP27 through its NDC (Nationally determined contribution) for climate change action which includes solar energy utilisation.

Importance of Solar Power in Climate Change

- i) As a renewable energy, it does not lead to carbon emission. India has committed to 45% reduction to carbon intensity and solar energy is key to this goal.
- ii) As the most abundant renewable energy source, India has embarked on an

ambitious mission to install 100 GW of solar energy by 2030 through schemes such as PM KUSUM, rooftop solar mission.

iii) Additionally, innovation in solar power can accelerate adaptive agricultural practices. Eg ① use solar pumps to draw water for irrigation.

② extra solar electricity can be added to the grid to ensure solar capability.

③ Farmers can earn money by selling electricity generated through rooftop solar panels.

④ Solar power can also help in recharging EV batteries thus help in mobility of farmers to markets with their produce.

Thus, solar power can be key to ensuring the energy security of India and the Keystone in fight against climate change.

Q6. Biotechnology is often seen as a revolutionary intervention, but the applications of biotechnology have had mixed socio-economic implications. Examine. (10 marks 150 words)

Biotechnology is the use of microbial organisms to harness productive results in fields of human health, food processing, etc. Eg. genetically modified crops.

Biotechnology is seen as a revolutionary intervention.

Advantages of Biotechnology

- i) Can help find solutions to incurable genetic diseases.
- ii) Can help study new viral strains and develop vaccines.
- iii) Can lead to increased ^{agricultural} food productivity through high yielding pest resistant varieties.
- iv) Can help develop organic & probiotic medicines. Eg. food enzymes.

In spite of its advantages, Biotechnology carries mixed - socio-economic implications

- i) Rise of unethical medical therapies.
- ii) Threat of bio-warfare and bio-terrorism.
- iii) Risk of global pandemic. Eg Covid-19.
- iv) Genetically modified crops can have undesirable impact on ecology. Eg. use of pest resistant GM crops in China led to death of a bird who fed on pests causing locust attack.

Thus biotechnology in spite of its promises carries some risks. Cartagena protocol deals with LMO and bio-technology can be regulated through similar international initiatives.

Q7. Green hydrogen can be the engine of a sustainable economy, but it would require crossing financial and technological barriers. Discuss the reasons for increasing interest in green hydrogen and challenges in its adoption as the fuel of the future. (150 words/10 marks)

As the world fights climate change, it is important to build resilient and reliable technologies for long-term energy security. In this regard, Green hydrogen is seen as an optimum avenue.

Green hydrogen is production of industrial hydrogen through electrolysis of water. The energy required is produced through renewable sources like solar energy.

Reasons for interest in Green hydrogen

- i) Hydrogen is one of the most abundant element on earth in compound form.
- ii) Hydrogen has high calorific value both in its combustion reaction as well as chemical reaction.

- iii) The energy efficiency of a green hydrogen plant is around 75%.
(including energy for electrolysis).
- iv) As a light fuel its storage and transportation is less cumbersome.

Challenges in adoption of Hydrogen as fuel

- i) Hydrogen is highly reactive and can cause explosions. Eg. Hindenburg disaster.
- ii) We are yet to discover ways to safely harness the calorific value of Hydrogen.
- iii) It requires huge upfront investment and operating energy requirement.

Despite of the challenges, Hydrogen (green) remains one of promising avenues for clean energy. Thus, Indian PM has included Green hydrogen mission in LT-LED strategy in the COP 27.

Q8. Persistence of various cross-border threats and absence of robust intra-regional trade with neighbouring countries have forced India to employ a unilateral approach to border management. Highlight various cross-border threats faced by the country and explain how they can be managed in an effective manner. (10 Marks/150 words)

India shares a long border with many countries in one of the most volatile regions of the world. ~~But~~ Cross-border threats and disputes have added to the large defence cost to India foregoing its growth imperatives.

In absence of intraregional trade India is forced to employ unilateral approach to border management.

Threats faced by India through Border

- i) Cross-border terrorism through state and non-state actors. Eg. Pakistan sponsored terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir.
- ii) Drugs and illegal human trafficking
- iii) Smuggling of arms & ammunition, merchandise and cattle. Eg. Bangladesh.

- iii) left-wing extremism Eg sponsored by China, acting out of Nepal.
- iv) Insurgency in North-east and demand of separate states. Eg. Myanmar based separatist groups like ULFA-I, NSCN-IM.

Ways to counter cross-border threats

- i) SAMADHAN strategy - Holistic strategy to address border related threats.
- ii) Modernisation of forces as per recommendations of Administrative reforms committee.
- iii) Promoting trade & commerce between neighbouring countries and ensuring economic integration.
- iv) Regional grouping like BIMSTEC for effective dialogue as well as bilateral dialogue.

Article 51 of DPSP encourages peaceful resolution of dispute through dialogue by India.

Q9. When inclusive growth is the goal, the approach cannot be anything other than education, skilling and job creation. Critically examine the success of various post-liberalization policies of the government in this regard. (10 marks/150 words)

Keynesian economist suggest welfarism and taxation for inclusive growth but according to Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, along with welfare we also need to promote their development to ensure inclusive growth, otherwise they ^{poor} will be stuck in perpetual poverty.

In accordance with this principle Indian government has come out with different schemes for education, skilling and job-creation.

Steps taken by government for inclusive growth

- 1) National education policy 2020 - to promote scientific learning and vocational training - in line with fundamental duties.

- ii) PM SHRI - to develop Capabilities of schools in ICT and modern teaching technology.
- iii) National Skill mission
- iv) Deen Dayal Upadhyay - Gramin Kaushalya Yojana
- v) Start-up India, A
- vi) Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Criticism of government schemes

- i) Insufficient implementation.
- ii) Lack of sufficient fund, functions and functionaries.
- iii) Corruption at ground-level.

India's labor force participation rate is 44% while 30% of youth is not in employment, education or training (NEET)

This shows high degree of risk in converting our demographic dividend to demographic disaster unless corrective actions are taken

Q10. Female workforce participation rate (FWPR) remains low in India despite economic development and rising education levels of women and girls. Discuss the reasons behind low Female workforce participation rate in India. Suggest measures for improvement. (10 marks/150 marks)

India with 68% of its population in age group 15-64 has high demographic dividend. However, high optimism is checked by the reality of low labor force participation of females (FWPR) of 25%. This reflects high degree of wasting of potential of India's working age population.

Reasons for low FWPR

- i) Psychological reasons - it is assumed that female have low aptitude in comparison to males. Hence, their education is neglected.
- ii) De-feminisation of workplace - for educated females, the unsupportive workplace acts as barrier and promotes hesitancy.

Eg. manufacturing floors in factories don't have proper urinals.

- ii) Social reasons - historically men have done physical labor while females were restricted to taking care of homes. This mentality is especially prevalent in rural areas.

Possible measures for improving women participation in labor force

- i) Providing right condition of work for women - article 42 of DPSP obligates government to provide right condition of work & maternity benefit.
- ii) Campaign for attitudinal change in society - similar to Swatch Bharat Abhiyan.

Thus, following constitutionalisation and promoting universal human rights can help improve FWR.

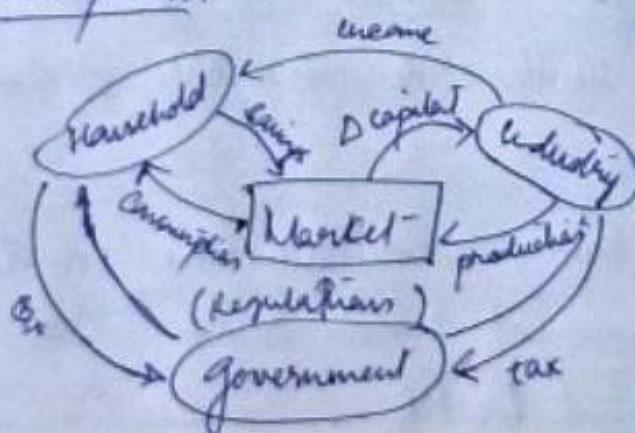
Q11. Fiscal policy of India always has two objectives, namely improving the growth performance of the economy and ensuring social justice to the people. Elaborate. (15 marks/250 words)

Democratic governance promises inclusive development to all sections of society. In line with this principle, India has developed its fiscal policy to achieve:

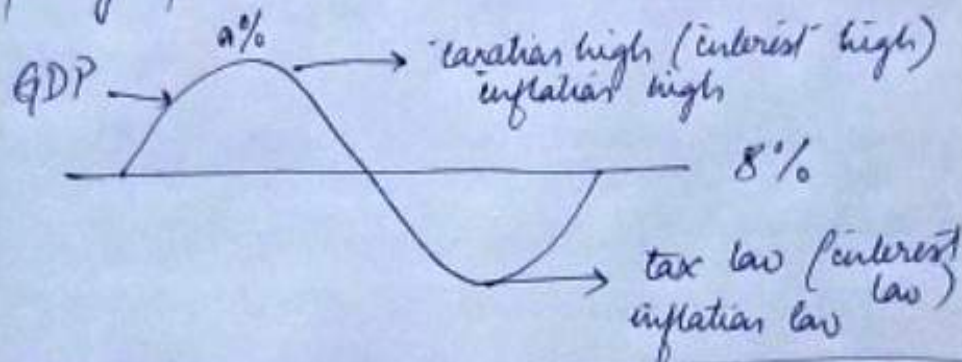
- i) Growth performance of economy
- ii) Substantive social justice to all people.

Ensuring growth through fiscal policy

- i) Fiscal policy refers to taxation and other regulatory measures.
- ii) Fiscal policy of India encourages market participation.



- iii) When economy grows well, the fiscal policy of India advises contractionary measures like increasing taxation.
- iv) When economy stagnates, the fiscal policy promotes economic stimulus.



Ensuring Social justice through fiscal policy

- i) Progressive taxation with lower limit of ₹ 5 lakh/annum.
- ii) Welfare schemes for minimum standard of life. Eg. NFSA, PMAY, Saubhagya.
- iii) Skill development through PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

Thus, in ensuring the substantive justice India provides welfare as well as means of development to its people.

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Q12. In light of various issues being faced, discuss the need for a revamped and need-based PDS in India. (15 marks/250 words)

After independence India walked the path of mixed economy where it promoted welfarism along with focus on industrial growth led by capitalism.

Welfarism has its roots in Keynesian economics. India with 224 people still living in poverty needs welfare measures. However, the current welfare schemes especially food security program faces several challenges.

Issues faced in food security in India

- i) Green revolution has made India self-sufficient in food grains.
- ii) But India is 107th out of 136 countries in Global Hunger Index.
- iii) It is also adding a huge subsidy burden on government's financing leading

- to fiscal deficit.
- iv) FAO reports that 10% of foodgrains are lost in storage.
 - v) MSP regime has made farmers risk averse and led to unsustainable farming practices. Eg rice cultivation in water scarce areas of Punjab.
 - vi) Even the existing PDS system is filled with inefficient and corrupt practices resulting in the benefits not reaching the beneficiaries.

In view of above, there have been calls for a revamped, trimmed-down and need based PDS in India.

Need for Revamped PDS system

- i) Instead of providing free foodgrains, govt. needs to provide subsidy for purchase of foodgrains through Direct

Benefit transfer (DBT).

- i) This requires identification of beneficiaries through the JAM Trinity
- ii) It would also ensure financial inclusion of the poor.
- iii) It would increase the efficiency of PDS by eliminating leakages and reach beneficiaries.

Thus, in line with article 47 of Directive principles of state policy, India must provide food security to the vulnerable section. But this must be balanced by its obligations under FRBM act to ensure the macro-economic health of the Indian economy.

Q13. Food subsidy bill is becoming an "unmanageably large" expenditure for the government. In this context, analyse the need for revisiting the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013. (15 marks/250 words)

India has a population of 1.4 billion people. According to UNDP, India is also home to 224 million people living in poverty. Thus, welfare schemes like NFSA is essential for their survival.

However, the vast welfare and food security scheme along with PDS is becoming unsustainable and unmanageably large expenditure for government.

Causes for high subsidy burden

- i) Large population of BPL and vulnerable sections. India's per capita GDP is only ~ \$ 2300.
- ii) Inefficiencies in public storage facilities of FCI and state government

leading to around 40% loss of cereals, according to FAO.

- ii) Corruption in PDS by diverting the food grains meant for beneficiaries to market by middlemen.

In the above context, there is a need to revisit NFSA to rationalise the food subsidy.

How to rationalise food subsidy?

- i) Adoption of direct benefit transfer can plug loopholes in the distribution.
- ii) Providing financial inclusion of the BPL families so that the benefit reaches them directly.
- iii) Upgrading the storage infrastructure of FCI as well as promoting local storage in areas of production.

Agriculture Infrastructure fund is an important Scheme to develop storage infrastructure.

- iv) Harnessing the demographic dividend by upskilling and generating income for BPL family. This will push them out of poverty.
- v) Discouraging the populist policies or vote bank politics which can significantly add to the subsidy burdening.
- vi) Improving agriculture income through value addition and rural food processing. E.g. APART Scheme of Assam govt.

Thus, govt. needs adopt innovative solutions along with climate resilient agriculture and thrust on industrial job growth to reduce subsidy burden.

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Q14. An effective approach to green budgeting is underpinned by strong strategic framework, tools for evidence generation and an enabling budgetary governance framework. Discuss. (15 marks/250 words)

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Q15. State finances in India present a worrying picture, with debt sustainability being a major concern. Discuss in context of the recent RBI report on state finances. (15 marks/250 words)

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Q16. Discuss the role of geospatial technologies in developing effective approaches for disaster risk reduction and disaster management. (15 marks/250 words)

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Q17. What are the challenges of infrastructure financing in India? Do you think the current investment models are effective in addressing those? Critically comment. (15 marks/250 words)

The infrastructure financing refers to the capital requirement for developing industrial or social infrastructure like roadways, hospitals, schools, etc.

According to WB, every 1% investment in infrastructure leads to 1% growth of GDP. Therefore, infrastructure investment is paramount to ensure the growth and prosperity of people.

However, infrastructure financing is challenging in India.

Challenges in infrastructure investment in India

- 1) High fiscal burden on both state and central government.

- i) High NPAs of public sector banks.
- ii) High project management cost due to cost overrun, scope change and supply side uncertainties.
- iv) High domestic sovereign debt crowds out private borrowing.
- v) High cost external commercial debt.
 - due to low investment grade rating by credit rating agencies like S&P, Fitch and Moody's.

In the midst of this, India follows various investment models like

- i) Public model - all investment by government
- ii) Private model - private led investment
- iii) Public Private Partnerships
 - land acquisition
 - Design & Construction

On the basis of ownership, risk-sharing and cost-sharing there are other various models within PPP like -

- i) Build operate, transfer (BOT)
- ii) Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM)
- iii) Viability Gap funding.

But these model suffers from various challenges

- i) Lack of re-negotiation
- ii) Lack of regulatory oversight
- iii) Absence of efficient dispute redressal
- iv) Insufficient financing sources.

Thus, a waterfall model of project management makes PPP projects very rigid and thus inefficient. The way forward is to adopt agile methodology for project execution to ensure timely and budgeted completion of

projects.

Q18. The impact of floods on life and property can be most effectively reduced by hazard mapping. Comment. (15 marks/250 words)

Floods are one of the most frequent hazard disasters in India as well as the world. According to Rashtra Barh Agyog, 12% of India is susceptible to flood while this number is as high as 39.5% in Assam.

Reasons for high vulnerability to floods

- i) The north-Indian plains are low lying area (Mean sea level height - 200m)
- ii) Perennial rivers from Himalayas ensure the rivers never go dry.
- iii) During monsoons, the rainfall is intense and rivers often overflow.
- iv) High population density in plains makes the plains very vulnerable to

loss of life and property.

In view of the ever-present dangers of flood, Indian government brought the National Flood Policy in 1954.

Key features of National Flood Policy

- i) Short-term
 - Flood zoning
 - Hazard mapping
 - River training
 - Sluice gates
- ii) Medium term
 - urban flood management
 - Disaster relief fund
 - Rain-water harvesting
 - Rain Flood Resistant construction
Eg. embankments
- iii) Long term
 - Inter-linking of Himalayan and peninsular rivers
 - River shed development.

Hazard Mapping

It determines the most flood vulnerable areas in a rain-water shed region. In India it has been prepared by Rashtra Barh Aayog.

It gives a map of most flood prone area. In India, most flood prone area is North-Indian plains & coastal plains.

Thus, flood being a natural or man-made disaster requires preparedness and sustainable practices in order to mitigate its risk.

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**Q19. Identify and discuss various pollution control and mitigation technologies.
(15 marks/250 words)**

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Q20. The evolving dynamic of geopolitics necessitates the indigenization of technology. Comment. Also, examine the recent developments in the field of indigenous defense technologies in India

(15 marks/250 words)

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Questions

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- Q11. Fiscal policy of India always has two objectives, namely improving the growth performance of the economy and ensuring social justice to the people. Elaborate. (15 marks/250 words)
- Q12. In light of various issues being faced, discuss the need for a revamped and need-based PDS in India. (15 marks/250 words)
- Q13. Food subsidy bill is becoming an "unmanageably large" expenditure for the government. In this context, analyse the need for revisiting the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013. (15 marks/250 words)
- Q14. An effective approach to green budgeting is underpinned by strong strategic framework, tools for evidence generation and an enabling budgetary governance framework. Discuss. (15 marks/250 words)

- Q15. State finances in India present a worrying picture, with debt sustainability being a major concern. Discuss in context of the recent RBI report on state finances. (15 marks/250 words)
- Q16. Discuss the role of geospatial technologies in developing effective approaches for disaster risk reduction and disaster management. (15 marks/250 words)
- Q17. What are the challenges of infrastructure financing in India? Do you think the current investment models are effective in addressing those? Critically comment. (15 marks/250 words)
- Q18. The impact of floods on life and property can be most effectively reduced by hazard mapping. Comment. (15 marks/250 words)
- Q19. Identify and discuss various pollution control and mitigation technologies. (15 marks/250 words)
- Q20. The evolving dynamic of geopolitics necessitates the indigenization of technology. Comment. Also, examine the recent developments in the field of indigenous defense technologies in India. (15 marks/250 words)