

**GS Advanced Program 2023****Generic Booklet**Test Name/Code/No. : **692011 (#11)**

Name			
Email ID			
Roll No.			
Mobile No.		Date	

Allotted Time : 60 Minutes**Instructions to Candidates -**

- There are 7 Questions in this Question paper.
- All Questions are Compulsory.
- For all updates, please visit the noticeboard -
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Q. No.	Grade/Score
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Overall Grade/Score	

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Start Writing Here

Q.1)

Multiplicity of commissions for vulnerable sections of the society has led to duplication of efforts and all these commissions should be merged in NHRC. Critically examine:

Vulnerable sections of India ~~like~~^{like}, SC/STs, women, children, minorities face amplitude of socio-economic problems related to health, education, economic opportunities, etc.

To solve these problems, constitution and legislations of India established National Commissions for women, SCs, STs, minorities & children.

Problems with multiplicity of commission

- 1.) Duplication of efforts because of similar mandate of all institutions
- 2.) Data duplication - leads to delay in implementation of sector specific policies
- 3.) Lack of financial independence

**GS Advanced Program 2023****Generic Booklet**

Test Name/Code/No. : 692011 (#11)

Name	HARSHITA		
Email ID			
Roll No.	1910103260		
Mobile No.		Date	

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4.) Lack of accountability & proper checks and balances.

Umbrella NHRC's ~~to~~ Need

- 1.) National Human Rights Commission looks into human rights violation as a whole.
- 2.) Better Segregation of work related to different sections of society
- 3.) Reduced Bureaucratic Delays
- 4.) Effective formulation of schemes for particular community or group

~~st~~ ~~to~~
NHRC is the watchdog of human rights in India and it ~~must~~ be given more teeth if we merge other commissions into it, NHRC must be given more teeth including financial & operational auto-nomy

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.2)

Covid-19 has increased educational inequality in India. Examine this statement along with remedial measures.

Covid-19 has ~~brought~~ affected all the sectors be it economy, education or healthcare. However, its impact on education has been quite stark.

Covid-19 has increased educational inequality

1.) Rural-urban divide

→ Only 13% of rural households had access to internet for online education

→ 48% of urban households had access to internet

2.) Rich-poor divide got widened

→ Covid-19 induced a digital divide in education sector.

→ majority of poor household did not have smartphones — common medium for imparting education.

3.) Gender divide

→ Covid-19 was specifically harsh on girl children

→ led to increased number girls' school dropouts & child marriages

4.) there has been seen an increase in school dropouts (both boys & girls)

→ perpetuating the poverty cycle.

Remedial Measures

1.) Bridging digital divide — providing smartphones to needy students

2.) Repetition of academic year to reduce the learning gap.

(eg) like Kenya & Philippines.

3.) Bringing back the dropped-out students to education system.

Govt initiatives like SWAYAM Prabha with 24x7 access to educational channels over DTH is a step in right direction

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Q.3)

Technology has changed the nature of education system in India. In light of this statement mention some govt. and non-government digital education initiatives.

Digital education is the use of ~~to~~ digital tools and technologies to teach and learn. It is also called as Technology Enabled Learning (TEL) & e-learning.

Government Digital Education Initiatives

- 1.) e-PG Pathshala — an online repository of various educational content.
- 2.) SWAYAM Portal — ^{web} portal to access different courses.
- 3.) National Programme for Technology Education & Learning (NPTEL)
 - by 7 IITs and IISc Bangalore
 - online & video lectures related to engineering, sciences & management.

4.) SWAYAM Prabha → 32 educational channels through DTH provided on 24x7 basis.

5.) Jharkhand Govt's DigiSAT program → to improved Parents-Teacher-Student linkages.

Non-govt. initiatives

1.) Rising ed-tech industry to provide online education
 @ Byjus & Unacademy.

2.) National AI Resource Program (NAIRP) by Amazon & IIT-Kharagpur to improve learning & teaching experience through AI.

These initiatives highlight that today the nature of education system has undergone huge change & is tilted towards technology.

Overall Grading (✓)

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Q.4)

Urbanisation is not a problem by default rather it is a government's response towards urbanisation that is a problem. Comment.

Urbanisation is the increase in the population of urban cities and town due to various pull & push factors.

Urbanisation related problems

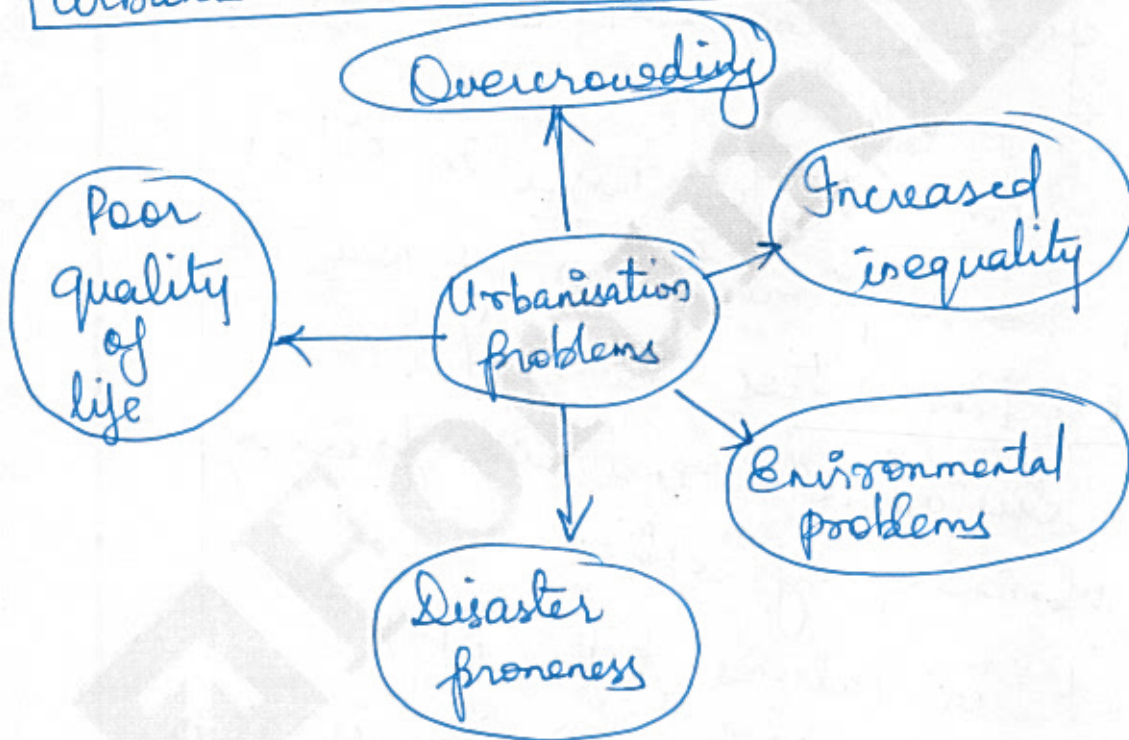


Fig:- Problems of urbanisation

Why is govt response to urbanisation a problem?

1.) Lack of financial and operational

autonomy to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)

- 2.) Lack of funding for urban areas
- 3.) Unplanned growth of cities leading to problem of slums

Remedies

- 1.) greater financial autonomy to ULBs
 - 2.) green infrastructure in cities
 - 3.) ~~to~~ implementation of water-absorbing cities concept.
 - 4.) Sustainable and eco-friendly planning of cities.
- Govt. initiatives like AMRUT mission & SMART cities mission is step in right direction.

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Poor			Average			Good		
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Q.5) Pandemic has accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Examine.

According to Oxfam 2019 report, Top 1% of Indian population owns 51.3% of India's wealth whereas remaining 99% people make a do with 48% of wealth.

Covid-19 pandemic ~~is~~ has further increased the existing inequalities in India as well as around the world (Oxfam International)

How has pandemic accelerated class inequalities & poverty:

- 1.) Strict implementation of lockdowns →
→ brought economy to a standstill
→ increased economic hardships & distress migration
- 2.) Deepening of Rich - Poor divide
→ white-collar workers were largely unaffected by economic impact →

switching to work-from-home.
→ migrant and casual workers lost their jobs

3) 75% of total job lost were from informal sector → impacting poor & vulnerable sections

4) gender inequality & feminisation of poverty
→ 18% women lost their jobs.

5) Healthcare costs burdened up the poor the most.

→ lack of health care facilities
→ high out-of-pocket expenditure
→ perpetuated the cycle of poverty

6) An additional 207 Million people will be pushed to extreme poverty because of long-term effect of Pandemic by 2030 (UNDP report).

Govt initiatives to tackle the problem

- 1.) Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY)
- 2.) Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana
- 3.) Cash transfers to over 2 crore women Jan Dhan accounts.
- 4.) Extension of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for electronics manufacturing
- 5.) PM SVANidhi — interest free loans for street-vendors hit by pandemic

Although, pandemic brought with itself a number of economic and social hardships like loss of job, loved ones, etc., it is the time for us to recover from all the losses.

Recover from pandemic certainly should not be short-term focussed & we must look for long-term recovery.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
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Q.6)

Why India continues to perform poor in global hunger index despite adequate food stocks and statutory laws to ensure food security? Provide solutions to deal with this problem.

India ranked 107 out of 121 countries in the Global Hunger Index, ²⁰²² ~~It fared~~ It fared worst than its other South Asian counterparts except the near-ton Afghanistan.

Reasons for poor performance

1.) Lack of availability of food

1.1) Large scale food wastage

→ more than 45 million tonnes of foodgrains are wasted in FCI godowns

1.2) Corruption, leakage and diversion of foodgrains.

- 1.3) Lack of transport and storage infrastructure
- 2.) Issue with Affordability
 - 2.1) high food inflation
 - 2.2) Poverty → poor are unable to buy foodgrains
- 3.) Issue with accessibility
 - 3.1) Inclusion & exclusion errors in PDS @ ghost beneficiaries
 - 3.2) Procedural errors because of non-implementation of One Nation One Ration Card scheme.
- 4.) Faulty Policies
 - 4.1) Lack of access to funds
@ Anganwadis are not given proper salaries
 - 4.2) Multiplicity of schemes.
 - 4.3) Lack of integration of Midday meal & ICDS schemes.

Solutions to the problem

- 1.) Biofortification - to enhance nutritional quality of crops.
- 2.) Implementation of One Nation One Ration Card (ONOR) scheme
- 3.) Addition of Vitamin-B12, folic acid and iron in foodgrains of PDS.
- 4.) Better convergence of Mid-day-meal and ICDS schemes
- 5.) Controlling food inflation by better monetary policy by RBI.
- 6.) Improving storage and transportation infrastructure across the supply chains.

Hunger is a problem which the whole world is facing. But, India being world's fifth largest economy ~~we~~ should not be lagging behind in providing food to its ~~etc~~ pupils.

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Q.7)

Despite multiple govt efforts, annual status of education report underlines the sorry state of affairs in school education in India. What are the reasons behind this sub-optimal performance? Also mention remedial measures.

Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is a nation wide survey that gives an estimate of student enrolment and level of their basic education for all districts & states.

Outcomes of ASER Report

- 1.) ^{Majority} Class I & II students have not attended in-person class.
- 2.) $\frac{1}{3}$ of students of class I & II do not have smartphones at home.
- 3.) Learning gap - 63% teachers said that students are unable to "catch-up" with the class.
- 4.) Increased dependency on private tuitions

Reasons behind sub-optimal performance

- 1.) Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns
- 2.) Increased screen-time of students led to distraction from core studies
- 3.) Lack of digital literacy among teachers.
- 4.) Digital divide - Only 13% of rural households have access to internet compared to 48% urban households.
- 5.) Parents are also digitally illiterate leading to ^{no} nil to very poor guidance to children

Remedial Measures

- 1.) Repetition of academic year

→ this will help in reducing the learning

(eg) ^{gap} ~~Korea~~ Kenya & Philippines have done this

2.) Introduction of hybrid mode of learning
→ includes both online and offline classes

3.) Improving ~~Pro~~ Parent-Teacher-Student linkages
(eg) Jharkhand govt's DigiSAT initiative

4.) Taking the refuge of cutting edge technologies like AI to improve learner experience

5.) Teachers & Parent training in digital literacy

6.) Reducing digital divide by focusing on less-advantaged sections.

It is high time for our country to overcome the ill-effects of Pandemic and work for improving the level of education for our children.

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