

UPPCS

17 January, 2025

Q.1 Critically analyse the achievements of economic planning in India in addressing issues of poverty, unemployment, and regional disparity. Provide relevant examples. (200 words)

Ans- Introduction

Economic planning in India has been pivotal in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1), focusing on **poverty alleviation, employment generation, and reducing regional disparities**. Despite progress, challenges persist in achieving **inclusive growth, quality employment, and addressing regional imbalances** effectively.

Achievements in Addressing Poverty

- Poverty Reduction:** From **45% in 1993-94** to **21.9% in 2011-12** (Tendulkar Committee), economic planning played a vital role.
 - Initiatives:** Integrated Rural Development Programme (1978), MGNREGA (2005).
 - Impact:** Green Revolution improved rural incomes and reduced hunger.
- Challenges:** Persistent poverty in rural and tribal areas highlights uneven progress.

Achievements in Tackling Unemployment

- Employment Generation:**
 - First Plan** focused on agriculture, creating rural jobs.
 - Industrial policies under the Second and Third Plans expanded urban employment.
 - Programs like MGNREGA provided **2.65 billion person-days of work in FY 2022-23**.
- Challenges:** Rising educated unemployment and informal sector dominance remain concerns.

Addressing Regional Disparity

- Infrastructure Development:** Focus on backward regions through initiatives like the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF).
 - Industrial corridors boosted development in underdeveloped states like Madhya Pradesh.
- Challenges:** Southern states outperform northern counterparts in health, education, and GDP contribution, reflecting persistent imbalances.

Critical Analysis

- While poverty and unemployment reduced significantly, regional disparities remain stark.
- Policies lacked uniform implementation, with leakages in welfare schemes and insufficient focus on quality jobs.
- The NITI Aayog's **Aspirational Districts Programme** is a step towards bridging these gaps.

Conclusion

Economic planning in India has achieved notable success but requires targeted reforms for inclusive and balanced growth. Addressing structural flaws is essential for sustained programme.

UPPCS

17 January, 2025

Q.2 Define inclusive development and discuss its significance in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India.

Ans- Introduction

Inclusive development refers to economic growth that is equitable, participatory, and sustainable, ensuring benefits reach all sections of society, especially marginalized groups. It aligns with **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** like **SDG 1 (No Poverty)**, **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)**, and **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**.

Definition of Inclusive Development

Inclusive development involves:

- Equitable distribution of resources.
- Social participation in decision-making.
- Protection of the environment to ensure intergenerational equity.

Significance in Achieving SDGs

1. Poverty Eradication (SDG 1)

- Inclusive development focuses on targeted schemes like **PM-KISAN** and **National Food Security Act (2013)**, which have improved income security and reduced hunger.
- Poverty declined from **21.9% (2011-12)** to an estimated **15% (2020)**.

2. Reducing Inequalities (SDG 10)

- Initiatives like **Aspirational Districts Programme** aim to bridge regional disparities by improving health, education, and infrastructure in backward districts.

3. Gender Equality (SDG 5)

- Programs such as **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao** and **MUDRA Yojana** empower women, enhancing their participation in economic and social spheres.

4. Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8)

- Schemes like **Skill India Mission** and **MGNREGA** generate employment and ensure livelihood security, fostering inclusive growth.

5. Environmental Sustainability (SDG 13)

- Inclusive development integrates environmental goals, promoting green energy through initiatives like **PM-KUSUM** and **National Solar Mission**.

Conclusion

Inclusive development is fundamental for India to achieve its SDG targets by 2030. By addressing inequalities and ensuring sustainable growth, it creates a pathway for a resilient and equitable society. Focused implementation and accountability are crucial for its success.

UPPCS

17 January, 2025

Q.3 Analyze the importance of the food processing industry in India's economic development. What are the major challenges and opportunities for the growth of this sector?

Ans- Introduction

The food processing industry is vital for India, contributing **9% to manufacturing GDP** and **13% to exports**, with a market size projected to reach **\$535 billion by 2025**. It employs over **1.93 million (MOFPI) people** and reduces annual post-harvest losses of **₹90,000 crore**, ensuring value addition and enhanced agricultural profitability.

Importance of Food Processing Industry

- **Economic Growth and Value Addition**
 - Enhances agricultural output, contributing to rural incomes and national exports.
 - Added **₹2.6 lakh crore** to exports in FY 2022.
- **Employment Generation**
 - Employs millions, supporting rural development and entrepreneurship.
- **Reduction in Wastage**
 - Mitigates substantial losses by improving storage and processing.
- **Improved Farmers' Income**

Ensures higher income through better pricing and processing support

Major Challenges

1. **Infrastructure Gaps:** Lack of cold storage facilities and supply chains.
2. **Fragmented Market:** Dominance of unorganized sectors affects scalability.
3. **Financial Constraints:** Limited credit access for SMEs and startups.

Opportunities for Growth

1. **Government Schemes:** PMKSY and PLI schemes boost investment and innovation.
2. **Export Potential:** Growing demand for organic and packaged foods globally.
3. **Technological Advancements:** AI and IoT optimize processes and reduce wastage.

Conclusion

The food processing industry is pivotal for India's economic development, offering employment and export growth. Addressing infrastructure gaps and fostering innovation can transform it into a global powerhouse.

UPPCS

17 January, 2025

Q.4 Discuss the role of globalization in shaping the status of women in Indian society. Highlight the positive and negative impacts, with suitable examples.

Ans- Introduction

Globalization has significantly influenced the **status of women** in India, creating opportunities for economic, social, and political empowerment. However, it has also posed challenges, leading to mixed outcomes

Positive Impacts

Economic Empowerment

- Women's participation in the workforce increased to 25.1% in 2021 (ILO).
- Examples: IT sector and startups led by women entrepreneurs.

Access to Education

- Increased enrollment of girls in higher education; Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) for females reached 27.3% in 2021-22.

Social Awareness

- Enhanced exposure to global movements like #MeToo has raised awareness about women's rights.

Negative Impacts

Cultural Challenges

- Global consumerism fosters body image issues and stereotypes.

Economic Disparities

- Gender wage gap remains at 19%
- India stands at rank 108 out of 193 countries

Conclusion

Globalization has empowered women economically and socially but also reinforced inequalities and cultural challenges. A balanced approach with gender-sensitive policies is vital for inclusive progress.