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PRE+ MAINS

PAPER - 1

Paper – 1- Essay Writing, Current Events
& Govt. Schemes



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IAS

PRE + MAINS

**UNION PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION (U.P.S.C.)**

PAPER – 1

**Essay Writing, Current Events &
Govt. Schemes**

PREFACE

Dear Aspirants, Presented Notes "**UPSC – CSE (PRE + MAINS)**" have been prepared by a team of teachers, colleagues and toppers who are expert in various subjects.

These notes will help the Aspirants to the fullest extent possible in the examination Of Civil Services conducted by the **UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (UPSC)**.

Finally, despite careful efforts, there may be chances of some shortcomings and errors in the notes / So your suggestions are cordially invited in Infusion notes.

Publisher :-

INFUSION NOTES

Jaipur, 302017 (RAJASTHAN)

Mob. : 01414045784, 8233195718

Email :- contact@infusionnotes.com

Website: <http://www.infusionnotes.com>

Whatsapp Link - <https://wa.link/5keqjl>

Online Order Link - <https://bit.ly/upsc-ias-notes>

PRICE -

EDITION – LATEST (2022)

CONTACT US - 9887809083, 8504091672, 8233195718, 9694804063

ESSAY WRITING, CURRENT AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

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CHAPTER - 1

ESSAY WRITING

- An Overview of Different Types and Styles

The UPSC Civil Service Mains Exam contains a paper on essay writing. Here you will be asked to write two essays each one carrying 125 marks making a total of 250 marks. You will be given two sets of four topics out of which one has to be chosen from each section. Here there is no prescribed syllabus and the topic could be socio-economic in nature. It could also be general. With three hours to finish two essays (each of about 1200 words), you have ample time in this paper, making it a good bet for increasing your score in the UPSC Mains Exam. This article gives details on the 4 types of Essays, 2 different styles of essays and some of the good characteristics of the essay.

Essay Types

There are 4 types of essays which are listed below.

Narrative Essay

Here the writer narrates an incident or event.

Descriptive Essay

Here the author describes any event, process or conditions.

Informative Essay

Here the purpose of the writer is to provide information including negative and positive sides to a topic.

Persuasive Essay

Here the author tries to convince the reader about any topic.

Basically, in the essay paper, a combination of all the above types is generally required. The writer's goals define the type of essay used.

Essay Styles

There are two styles of essay writing namely,

1. Structured
2. Spontaneous

In a structured essay, you build a framework on which you write the essay. A spontaneous essay is one in which you make the framework as you write. However, it is important to collect your thoughts and organize the points which you will be covering beforehand. As a writer, you have to figure out which style suits you more. This can be done by practising essays in mock tests.

Good Essay - Characteristics

1. Clear and concise.
2. Coherent throughout.
3. Written in a simple yet good and accurate language.
4. Contains relevant quotes, examples and statistics.
5. Written in a good hand.
6. Relevant to current India.
7. Multi-dimensional.
8. Neutral and balanced.
9. Offer possible solutions to problems.

How to Write Essay in UPSC Exam

The Essay Paper is one of the nine papers in the UPSC civil services mains exam. In this paper, you will have to write two essays, each with a word count of 1000 – 1200. One topic can be selected from a choice of four topics. The Essay Paper is for a total of 250 marks, with one essay for 125 marks.

How to write the essay for UPSC?

1. Read the topics thoroughly

This is the most important step in the process. You should choose one of the four topics. While selecting your topic, make sure you know most about that topic out of the given topics. What not to pick:

- A sensitive or controversial topic like say, feminism.
- A topic about which you are too passionate or feel strongly about. In this case, you may tend to get excited and fail to write a balanced essay. This can work against you.

2. Think for some time

Once you've selected your topic, you should not start writing straight away. It is prudent to think for some time and collect your thoughts. Write in pencil the points you want to write. This is important because only then you can write your points in the correct sequence. For instance, if you are writing about India's relations with her neighbours, you need to write the historical facts and events in the beginning. Suppose you start writing the essay, and realise only towards the end that you have forgotten to mention a crucial detail in the historical part; it would be too late to add it because of a space crunch. Therefore, it helps if you write your rough points in the beginning.

Once you have the rough points in hand, you can start writing the essay. While writing, you must adhere to a good structure. The structure of a good essay is as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Historical
3. Main issue/problem/subject
4. Current scenario/current news related to the topic
5. Positive and negative aspects
6. Obstacles

7. Reforms/way forward

You can get brownie points if you also include:

- Relevant quotes/sayings by famous personalities (ensure to quote verbatim – wrong quotes make you look careless or lazy).
- Relevant government schemes and policies.
- Any figures or numbers (must be accurate otherwise don't include them).

Important points to note while you write:

- Don't resort to name-calling. Never get personal in your essay.
- Don't have extreme views. The Buddha's middle path can help you here!
- Don't just present problems. Give possible reforms/solutions also.
- Don't criticise the government/administration excessively.
- Even if the topic is provocative, your essay shouldn't be. Present a balanced picture. You don't HAVE to agree to the topic.
 - Avoid writing utopian solutions.
 - Keep in mind you are a future officer, not a journalist!

How to Write the Essay Paper in UPSC Mains?

The essay paper is an important aspect of the UPSC civil services exams. It can make or break your outcome. There are two sections in this paper. Each section gives you four topics out of which you have to choose one topic each. Each essay you write is marked out of 125 making a total of 250 marks.

While you don't have to study separate content for the civil services essay paper, for your general studies preparation is enough to cover possible topics, you do have to

Thomas Jefferson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Determine never to be idle. No person will have occasion to complain of the want of time, who never loses any. It is wonderful how much can be done if we are always doing.” • “Honesty is the first chapter of the book of wisdom.” • “I can’t live without books.” • “I am a greater believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it.” • “On matters of style, swim with the current, on matters of principle stand like a rock.”
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The table of 200-odd quotes above, although comprehensive, is by no means exhaustive. IAS aspirants should go through UPSC mains GS and essay papers from past years to understand how these quotes can come in handy and then compile and categorise their own lists.

What are the Important Points to Note for Essay Preparation

One of the mains papers is the Essay Paper. Amidst the hullabaloo of the General Studies and the optional subject papers, the essay paper tends to get side-lined. No issues there as there is no set syllabus for this paper, but it would be imprudent to take this paper without any preparation whatsoever. You have to practice writing essays by making some rudimentary preparation about a few general relevant topics. The below points should be adhered to in the Essay Examination.

1. Must write the essays in the language authorized in the admission certificate. The medium must also be mentioned by you on the cover of the answer booklet. Answers written in any other language will not be evaluated by the board.
2. One must adhere to the specified word limit.
3. If any page or portion of the answer booklet is left blank, it must be struck off.

Which are the Subject Areas a Candidate Must Focus on while Preparing For Essay Paper of UPSC Mains Exam?

A candidate preparing for the Essay Paper of UPSC Mains exam must focus his or her preparation on the below given subjects.

1. Education
2. Women
3. Technology
4. Democracy
5. Economy
6. Ethics
7. Social Issues

Questions hover around the above given topic, in fact, a candidate can get a lot of material from the general studies preparation itself.

What can we Analyse from the Previous Years Essay Question Papers?

The below 2 graphs give an interesting perspective of the Essay papers. It gives us an idea of the subject areas that need to be covered and requires the attention of candidates to handle questions of the Essay paper.

Essay paper of 2015 and the number of questions asked from each topic.

CHAPTER - 2

IMPORTANT ESSAYS ON DIFFERENT TOPICS

• Drone Technology

Is it a Substitute for Manned Aircrafts?

No country can imagine reaching the summit without the development of science and technology. Any invention in the field of science brings revolutionary changes in human life. In this context, the development of drone technology at present has played an important role in India along with the whole world. Today drone technology is being used not only in the strategic field but in various fields of life.



Drone Technology is rapidly growing in popularity and has broken down hard traditional barriers across industries. Over the years, drones have become central to the functioning of various businesses and government organizations. From scanning an inaccessible location or military base to monitoring an area or multiple areas, drones are proving to be extremely beneficial.

Meaning of Drone

Unmanned aircraft are known as drones. It is a small remotely operated aircraft. In the true sense, it is a robot that can fly. The

Hindi meaning of drone is a male bee and it has got this name because of its flying. It flies like a bee and can hover even while remaining stationary in one place. Drones are generally used in inaccessible places, where humans cannot easily reach.

What is Drone Technology?

Drones are Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS) that are controlled either by a pilot on the ground or with the help of technology. This radio-focused toy can be as small as a helicopter or as big as a global falcon.

Drones are playing a vital role in the fight against the Coronavirus pandemic by supporting activities carried out by police, healthcare, and municipal authorities in monitoring and enforcing lockdowns, surveying, and mapping, spraying disinfectants, etc.

Types of Drones Technology

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation of India has prescribed five main types of drones.

1. **Nano Drone:** It weighs up to 250 grams.
2. **Micro Drone:** It weighs more than 250 grams but less than 2 kg.
3. **Small Drone:** It weighs more than 2kg but less than 25kg.
4. **Medium Drone:** It weighs more than 25kg but less than 150kg.
5. **Large Drone:** It weighs more than 150 kg.

Development of Drone Technology

The concept of drones can be dated back to 1849 when Austria attacked Venice using an unmanned balloon filled with explosives. Later in 1916, Great Britain developed the first pilotless winged aircraft, the Ruston Proctor Aerial Target. In 1935, the British

developed the 'Queen Bee', a radio-controlled target drone.

Although originally created for military purposes, drones have seen rapid development and progress. Today this drone technology has evolved into various forms and is widely used in defense, commercial aerial surveillance, journalism, crowd management, e-commerce, and search and rescue operations.

Disadvantages of Using Drone Technology

- Criminals and extremists can commit major crimes through drones, such as dropping explosives in a safe area, transporting illegal goods inside the prison, attacking with biological weapons, etc.
- If the drone is found by anti-social elements, then they can not only spy through it but can also attack if needed.
- A drone is a machine, due to which it can be easily hacked like other machines. A hacker can attack its control system and damage it, as well as get confidential information.
- The International Air Transport Association has recognized drones as a threat to airspace and called for wider consultations to ensure its associated safety.

Drone Technology in India

Given the complex security challenges facing India, the role of UAVs in providing critical intelligence will play a vital role not only in effectively fighting wars but also in preventing cross-border terrorist attacks in India. The UAVs of the Indian Armed Forces are Nishant, Rustom, UAV Panchi, and Aura.

Although many countries are working individually/jointly to develop an advanced drone industry, currently the United States, Israel, and China are the market leaders.

Applications of Drone Technology

- In the agriculture sector, today farmers in different countries of the world are monitoring crops and spraying medicines through drones. Thus, it can be said that the use of drones is also being revolutionized in the field of agriculture.
- Drone Technology is typically used in situations where manned flight is considered too risky or difficult. A typical unmanned aircraft is made of a lightweight composite material to reduce weight and increase its maneuverability. The strength of this composite material allows military drones to cruise at extreme altitudes and thus proves to be very beneficial in the defense system of the country.
- In the home delivery of goods, currently, companies like Google and Amazon are preparing to do home delivery of goods by drone. Amazon has also filed a patent for the deployment of drones in India.
- Drone technology is also being used in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to make the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan a success. Drones are being used to monitor open defecation near rivers and ponds in Telangana's Karimnagar.
- Drones are being used for relief and rescue during floods, earthquakes, etc. The pictures of the devastating earthquake that hit Nepal in April 2015 were taken by the drone.

Conclusion about Drone Technology

Drone technology is constantly evolving, so the drone technology of the future is currently undergoing progressive improvements. There are many benefits of using a drone. All over the world, innovators and scientific researchers are coming together to find new ways to use drones to fight COVID-19 Pandemic.

Tilak, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and many more who lives in the age of national upsurge and sacrificed their lives for the sake of their beloved country.

The national war memorial represents the gratitude of a nation to its armed forces. The memorial strengthens the sense of belonging, high moral values, sacrifice, and national pride in our citizens.

It stands testimony to the sacrifices made by our soldiers during various conflicts, united nations operations, disaster response operations since independence.

The name of our country's devotees is written on the rate on the national war memorial. Seeing the names of those patriots, I keep my desire to do something for the country. Seeing the national war memorial, this desire awakens in my heart that if I lay down my life for the country, then it will be the most important sacrifice of my life.

• Essay on Land Reforms in India

Land Reforms in India Contents:

1. Essay on the Meaning of Land Reforms
2. Essay on the Need or Role of Land Reforms in India
3. Essay on the Objectives of Land Reforms in India
4. Essay on the Land Reform Measures Introduced in India
5. Essay on the Factors Responsible for Poor Performance of Land Reforms
6. Essay on the Suggestions for Attaining Success in the Implementation of Land Reforms

1. Essay on the Meaning of Land Reforms:

By the term 'land reforms', we mean reforms of institutional factors related to land. In order to raise the agricultural production and also increase the level of income and standard of living of the cultivators, institutional factors along with technical factors are playing an important role. These institutional factors include land tenure system, land holdings; farming structure, land distribution, intermediaries etc.

Land reform measures have been introduced by various underdeveloped and developing countries for attaining a rational land distribution pattern and viable farming structure. Accordingly, E.V. Long has rightly observed. "In most of the underdeveloped countries land reforms is one of the main cornerstones of agrarian policy." In order to attain institutional changes in agrarian structure, land reforms are considered effective. Prof. Gunnar Myrdal argued, in this connection, "Land reforms are a planned and institutional reorganisation of the relation between man and land."

The term 'land reforms' has two different senses. In a narrow sense, land reforms are concerned with those reforms related to land ownership and land holdings. But in a broad sense, the term 'land reforms' is used to mean those measures of reforms necessary to raise agricultural productivity which include reforms relating to fixation of rent on land, abolition of intermediaries, credit and marketing arrangements etc.

The following are some of the important general measures incorporated in land reforms:

(i) Measure Related to Distributive Justice:

These measures are aimed to attain distributive justice in land sharing through

abolition of intermediaries, redistribution of land among landless cultivators recovered through abolition of intermediary tenure and ceiling on land holdings.

(ii) Tenancy Measures:

Land reforms also include some tenancy measures like ceiling on land holdings, fixation of tenure, regulation of rent, remission of rents during natural calamities etc.

(iii) Measures for Agrarian Reorganisation:

These measures of agrarian reorganisation are mostly related to the size of holdings. The problems arising out of continuous fragmentation and subdivision of holdings are attempted to be removed through consolidation of holdings, co-operative farming etc.

2. Essay on the Need or Role of Land Reforms in India:

There is a great need for land reforms in a country like India where the majority of its population is still dependent on agriculture. One of the main reasons behind the backwardness of Indian agriculture is the defective land policy followed in the country.

Accordingly, Harold Man observed, "The fundamental obstacle to rural progress was not technical but the institutional framework of Indian agriculture." There are a number of defects of land policy pursued in India. The Planning Commission of India has underlined some defects of our land policy.

(i) Presence of multiplicity of intermediaries between the Government and cultivator.

(ii) Lack of adequate security of tenure.

(iii) Fixation of high rent and lack of incentive.

(iv) Large scale sub-division and fragmentation of holdings and the

impediments arising out of it towards adoption of modern and scientific methods of cultivation.

(v) Unequal distribution of land.

(vi) Low productivity per hectare of land.

(vii) Increasing inequality between rich and poor as a result of the green revolution.

It is being increasingly felt by renowned economists like G. Myrdal and K.N. Raj said that in order to develop agriculture in our country land reforms are considered much more important than technological reforms.

The following are some of the important land reforms in India:

(i) Economic Holding:

Land reforms can pave the way for creating economic holding through redistribution of land to small and marginal farmers. This will facilitate adoption of modern improved farming techniques.

(ii) Providing Incentives:

Removal of intermediaries and tenancy system followed by the system of giving ownership of land to actual cultivators through land reforms can ensure the benefit of cultivation to the tiller of the soil. This will create incentive in the minds of the farmers to devote much more effort and to raise the volume of investment for adopting new farming technology.

(iii) Increase in Productivity and Production:

Land reform measures have special importance for the farming community as the reform of the land tenure system and increase in the size of holding along with development of co-operative farming can lead to increase in productivity and the volume of productions.

CHAPTER - 3

CURRENT AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENT **SCHEMES**

Economic Survey

Introduction

The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance presents the Economic Survey of India in Parliament every year, just before the Union Budget. This document is submitted to both houses of Parliament during the Budget Session.

The Economic Survey reviews the developments in the Indian economy over the previous 12 months. It highlights the policy initiatives of the government, summarizes the performance on major development programs, and shows the growth prospects of the economy.

It is generally presented by the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA). However, this year (2022), it has been prepared by the Principal Economic Advisor Sanjeev Sanyal.

Importance of Economic Survey

The Economic Survey is a vital source for the UPSC exam, especially for the subjects Indian economy, polity, as well as, government schemes.

- The Economic Survey discusses all the major government initiatives with explanations. All the dynamic and theoretical questions can be traced to this.
- As per the new trend, the economy and the environment are going hand in hand. So questions can come from that perspective also.

- Students can imbibe actual phrases used in the Economic Survey to frame answers for UPSC Mains Examination.
- The Survey analyses and gives reasons for many issues happening around. Deep knowledge of the current policies and programs of the government also helps an aspirant to write meaningful essays.
- Furthermore, the issues appraised in the Economic Survey and reforms suggested are often implemented by the government in future initiatives. A good example of this would be the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), which was suggested in previous Economic Surveys and has been implemented by the government.
- Good phrases from the Survey and the use of appropriate language can be used in the exam to fetch a high score. For example – “Good economics is good politics”, “twin balance sheet problem”, “translating potential into actuality” “Chakravayh challenge”, etc.
- Adding important and relevant facts and figures significantly boost marks in General Studies Paper-III.
- Students should not miss reading the Economic Survey if they wish to clear the UPSC Prelims, as many questions are seen to be directly taken from this document.

How to read the Economic Survey for UPSC?

The pattern of Economic Survey

The Economic Survey usually consists of two volumes:

1. **Economic Survey, Volume I:** Deals with conceptual and analytical issues.
2. **Economic Survey, Volume II:** Deals with the state of economy and sectors of the economy in some detail with more focus on immediate issues and statistics.

distributing the tax proceeds between the Centre and states, and among the states.

The Finance Commission also decides the share of taxes and grants to be given to the local bodies in states. This part of tax proceeds is called Finance Commission Grants, which is a part of the Union budget.

The Finance Commission has a chairman and four members appointed by the President of India.

15th Finance Commission

The 15th Finance Commission was constituted by the President of India in November 2017, under the chairmanship of NK Singh. Its recommendations will cover a period of five years from April 2020 to March 2025.

Terms of Reference of XV-FC

XV-FC is mandated to give recommendations regarding

- The distribution between the Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes which are to be divided between them.
- The allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds.
- The principles which should govern the grants in aid of the revenues of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India.
- The measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats and Municipalities in the State based on the recommendations made by the Finance Commission of the State.

The Commission shall review the current fiscal status of the Union and the States, and recommend a fiscal consolidation roadmap. The Commission may also examine whether revenue deficit grants be provided at all.

While making the recommendations, the XV-FC may consider

- Resources of Central and State governments and their potential and fiscal capacity.
- Demand on the resources of respective governments.
- Impact of the enhanced devolution following 14th FC on the fiscal situation.
- Impact of GST and compensation for the losses in revenues for 5 years.

The Commission may consider proposing performance-based incentives to the States based on

- Efforts made in expansion and deepening of tax net under GST.
- Efforts and progress made in moving towards the replacement rate of population growth.
- Achievements in the implementation of flagship schemes of Government of India, disaster-resilient infrastructure, and sustainable development goals.
- Progress made in increasing capital expenditure, eliminating losses of the power sector, and improving the quality of such expenditure in generating future income streams.
- Progress made in increasing tax/non-tax revenues.
- Promoting savings by the adoption of Direct Benefit Transfers and Public Finance Management System.
- Promoting digital economy and removing layers between the government and the beneficiaries.
- Progress made in promoting ease of doing business and promoting labour-intensive growth.
- Provision of grants in aid to local bodies for basic services and implementation of a performance grant system in improving the delivery of services.

- Control or lack of it in incurring expenditure on populist measures.
- Progress made in sanitation, solid waste management and bringing in a behavioural change to end open defecation.

The Commission shall use the population data of 2011 while making its recommendations.

The Commission may review the present arrangements on financing Disaster Management initiatives regarding the funds constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

Controversies associated with the 15th Finance Commission

The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the 15th Finance Commission were opposed by some States. The main apprehensions were:

- Progressive states would lose heavily if the population-based on the 2011 census was considered for the devolution of central funds.
- States that have performed well on population control would be penalized.
- Previous FCs used 1971 Census numbers while the 14th commission had given weight to both the 1971 (17.5%) and 2011 (10%) censuses.
- Some states have a higher potential in expanding the GST tax base while others do not. Hence the performance on this parameter cannot be a basis for fund devolution.
- Many states run social sector schemes which are welfare-oriented. If these schemes are considered populist, these States will be penalized.
- States are already under the burden of GST and devolution based on the 2011 Census will further constrain the fund position of the States.

- States resent a devolution criterion that considers the implementation of Central schemes, as tax devolution is their constitutional right and not a largesse of the Central government.
- Since revenue deficit grants are proposed to be re-looked, there may be a reduction in the fiscal autonomy of the States and conditions for borrowing from external sources will also be reviewed.

These apprehensions were addressed by the Centre which said that there is no regional bias and that poorer States rely more on Centre's revenue than developed ones. Regarding the shift to Census 2011 numbers, it was mentioned that efforts made towards reducing population growth rate towards replacement rate were also included which balances the equation.

Recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission

The 15th Finance Commission proposed recommendations for both vertical and horizontal devolution.

Vertical Devolution

41% of the divisible pool to be devolved to the States in the year 2020-21.

FC-XIV which had recommended 42%, had a view that tax devolution should be the primary route of transfer of resources to States as they are a more objective form of transfer of resources as compared to other forms. The XV-FC also agrees with this view but reduced the States' share to 41% because of the re-organization of the State of Jammu & Kashmir into UTs of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir through the Jammu & Kashmir Re-organization Act, 2019.

UTs are the responsibilities of the Union and their demands have to be met from the Union Government's resources.

Horizontal Devolution

Horizontal devolution is done primarily to enable the States to provide basic public goods and services with equivalent tax effort. The various criteria to be considered for horizontal devolution are classified into three broad groups as follows.

- **Need-based criteria:** Population, area and forest & ecology form the need-based criteria. This is needed to address the fiscal gap of States existing due to the structural mismatch between the States' resources and their expenditure liabilities.
- **Equity-based criterion:** Income distance forms the equity-based criterion to ensure fiscal equalization given the large differences in the resource base available and status of development within the country.
- **Performance-based criteria:** Demographic performance and tax effort are part of the performance-based criteria that is framed to reward and incentivize States to perform better, in terms of utilization of resources available to them.
- **Population:** Only 2011 Census numbers are used as per the ToR. Population criterion is assigned a weight of only 15 per cent as some of the other criteria will also be scaled by it.
- **Area:** A moderate weight of 15 per cent for the area criterion is assigned larger area incurs some additional administrative costs but it may not lead to a proportional increase in the cost of providing services.
- **Forest and Ecology:** This criterion is for the ecological services being provided by a State's forest cover to the country as a whole and is arrived at by calculating the

share of the dense forest of each State in the aggregate dense forest of all the States. A weight of 10 per cent is assigned for the forest and ecology criterion.

- **Income Distance:** Distance of per capita income is the criteria used to make the devolution formula more equalizing and progressive, and provides higher devolution to States with lower per capita income and lower own tax capacity. The XV-FC retained the income distance criterion with a weight of 45 percent.
- **Demographic Performance:** An abrupt change from 1971 Census data to 2011 Census data should not unfairly penalize some States which have performed well on population control. Hence, the commission recommended introducing a new performance-based criterion to reward States who have performed well on the demography front. This criterion of demographic performance is computed by using the reciprocal of TFR of each State, scaled by the population data of Census 1971. States which have achieved lower TFR will be scored higher and vice versa. This criterion is assigned a weight of 12.5 per cent.
- **Tax Effort:** The inclusion of tax effort as a performance-based criterion will reward the States with higher tax collection efficiency and encourage all States to be more tax efficient. It is computed by taking the ratio of the average of per capita own tax revenue of a State over three years and its per capita GSDP and scaling this ratio by the population of the State. Total weight of 2.5 per cent has been assigned to this criterion.

Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have received the largest devolutions for 2020-21 while

Karnataka and Kerala saw the largest decreases in the share of the divisible pool.

Grants in Aid

Revenue Deficit Grants: 14 states are estimated to face a revenue deficit post-devolution. The Commission has recommended revenue deficit grants worth Rs 74,341 crore to these 14 states. Furthermore, the three states of Karnataka, Mizoram, and Telangana received special grants to make up the shortfall between untied transfers received by these States in the form of tax devolution plus revenue deficit grant in 2020-21 vis-a-vis the corresponding amount in 2019-20.

Sectoral Grants: The XV-FC is considering recommending sectoral grants for nutrition, health, pre-primary education, judiciary, rural connectivity, railways, statistics and police training, and housing during its tenure. Of these, grants for nutrition, to augment the efforts of the States towards reducing and ultimately eliminating malnutrition, is specifically recommended even in 2020-21.

Performance-based Incentives: Six broad areas are identified to provide performance-based incentives to States.

- Implementation of Agriculture Reforms
- Development of Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks
- Power Sector Reforms
- Enhancing Trade including Exports
- Incentives for Education
- Promotion of Domestic and International Tourism

Empowering Local Bodies

Some significant changes made by XV-FC compared to previous Finance Commissions:

- To recommend grants to all tiers of the Panchayati Raj to enable pooling of resources to create durable community assets and improve their functional viability.
- To give grants to the Fifth and Sixth Schedule areas and Cantonment Boards.
- To provide for tied grants in the critical sectors of sanitation and drinking water to ensure additional funds to the local bodies over and above the funds allocated for these purposes under the centrally sponsored schemes (CSS), Swachh Bharat and Jal Jeevan Missions.
- To account for increasing urbanization the share of urban local bodies in Finance Commission grants to local bodies should be gradually increased to 40 per cent over the medium term.
- Since larger cities will tend to grow faster with the agglomeration effect, the fifty Million-Plus cities in the country need differentiated treatment, with special emphasis on meeting the challenges of bad ambient air quality, groundwater depletion and sanitation.

Grants to Local Bodies:

- The Commission has recommended a total of Rs 90,000 crore for grants to the local bodies in 2020-21.
- This amounts to 4.31% of the divisible pool.
- These grants will be made available to all three tiers of Panchayat- village, block, and district.
- The inter-se distribution of grants for local bodies among the States may be based on population and area in the ratio of 90:10.
- For 2020-21, the proportion of grants between rural and urban local bodies

market of particular crops. It leads to intensive farming year after year, which degrades soil. Farmers rely on political pressure to remedy their problems, instead of adapting to the market. This all keeps private investment away from the sector.

Notwithstanding all this, it is unquestionable that our farmer needs support. Question under debate is what sort of support should farmers get? Currently farmers besides numerous other input subsidies are getting crop specific support. This means that our policy makers dictate agricultural product mix, which otherwise is the domain of consumers. For this it is essential that –

1. Support should be Crop Neutral as has been recommended by many experts on the topic. If all farmers get the same monetary support despite the crops produced, then they are better placed to diversify their crops as per demands of the market. This can be done by changeover to Income support from MSP.
2. Farmers should get support at the time of distressed market prices. The 1st preference of farmers should be to sell in the market. At a price which should be higher than MSP.

MSP on Minor forest produce (MFP)

The MFP gatherers are mostly poor who are unable to bargain for fair prices. The Govt. of India has decided to introduce the scheme of “Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and development of value chain”. The scheme is designed as a social safety net for improvement of livelihood of MFP gatherers by providing them fair price for the MFPs they collect.

The scheme has been started with following objectives

- To provide fair price to the MFP gatherers for the produce collected by them and enhance their income level
- To ensure sustainable harvesting of MFPs.
- The Scheme will have a huge social dividend for MFP gatherers, majority of whom are tribals.
- It is a holistic scheme for development of MFP trade including its value chain and necessary infrastructure at local level. The MSP scheme seeks to establish a framework to ensure fair returns for the produce collected by tribals, assurance of buying at a particular price, primary processing, storage, transportation etc while ensuring sustainability of the resource base.

Levy procurement System

State Governments/UT Administrations issue levy orders in exercise of the powers delegated to them under the Essential Commodity Act, 1955 after obtaining the prior concurrence of the Central Government.

The aim is to increase procurement for the government's buffer stocking and distribution through PDS. Rice millers are mandated to supply a certain proportion (levy) of processed rice to the FCI at a fixed processing margin.

The percentage of rice is fixed by the state governments taking into account requirements of the Central Pool, domestic consumption and marketable surplus. The centre fixes the prices of levy rice, which are typically below the market price, before the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) commences. The quantum of levy varies across states and ranges between 30 percent and 75 per cent.

In nineteen of the 23 states/Union Territories that impose the levy it is 50 percent or more; it is 60 percent in Uttar Pradesh and 75 percent in AP, Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Orissa thus leaving

little rice for the open market. Kerala is the only state that has no system of levy.

The adverse effects that rice levees have on the markets are obvious: they discourage rice millers' investment, increase private traders' transactions costs, breed corruption, and create rents for special interests. Since millers are not allowed to sell in the open market until levy requirement is met and because market price is generally higher than levy price, it creates various avenues of corruption in the foodgrains marketing chain. Further bad quality is supplied to the government (such as broken rice) which otherwise would have fetched low prices.

Until last year sugar was also under levy and non-levy obligations, on recommendations of Rangarajan committee these were removed. Under Non levy obligations Sugar mills were given fortnightly, monthly, half yearly quotas for sale of sugar. This was because sugarcane is a seasonal crop and about 90% of sugar is produced in just two months. Unregulated sales can create avenues for hoarding and big price fluctuations.

WTO and Subsidies

WTO's agreement on agriculture was concluded in 1994, and was aimed to remove trade barriers and to promote transparent market access and integration of global markets. Agreement is highly complicated and controversial; it is often criticized as a tool in the hands of developed countries to exploit weak countries. Negotiations are still going on for some of its aspects.

Agreement on agriculture stands on 3 pillars viz. Domestic Support, Market Access, and Export Subsidies.

- **Domestic Support** – It refers to subsidies such as Guaranteed Minimum Price or Input subsidies which are direct and

product specific. Under this Subsidies are categorized into 3 boxes –

- **Green Box** – Subsidies which are no or least market distorting includes measures decoupled from output such as income-support payments (decoupled income support), safety – net programs, payments under environmental programs, and agricultural research-and-development subsidies.
- Such as Income Support which is not product specific. Like in India farmers are supported for specific products and separate support prices are there for rice, wheat etc. On the other hand income support is uniformly available to farmers and crop doesn't matter.
- The US has exploited this opportunity to fullest by decoupling subsidies from outputs and as of now green box subsidies are about 90% of its total subsidies. It was easy for the USA because it doesn't have concern for food security. Further, it has a prosperous agro economy, and farmers can better respond to markets and shift to other crops. But in India, the domestic support regime provides a livelihood guarantee to farmers and also ensures food security and sufficiency. For this MSP regime tries to promote production of particular crops in demand. And this makes decoupling Support with output very complicated.
- The USA was also in position to subsidize R&D expenditure in agriculture as almost all the farming in the US is capitalist and commercial. Big agriculturists spend substantial amounts on technology upgrades and R&D. But in India about 80% of farming is subsistence and hence, India & other developing countries can use this opportunity.
- **Blue Box**
- – Only 'Production limiting Subsidies' under this are allowed. They cover payments based on acreage, yield, or number of livestock in a base year.

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<u>EXAM (परीक्षा)</u>	<u>EXAM DATE</u>	<u>हमारे नोट्स में से आये हुए प्रश्न</u>
RAS PRE. 2021	27 अक्तूबर 2021	74 प्रश्न (150 में से) CUT OFF - 64
UPSC - IAS PRE. (2022)	05 JUNE 2022	69 (100 में से)
SSC GD 2021	16 नवम्बर	68 (100 में से)
SSC GD 2021	01 दिसम्बर	65 (100 में से)
SSC GD 2021	08 दिसम्बर	67 (100 में से)
राजस्थान S.I. 2021	13 सितम्बर	113 (200 में से)
राजस्थान S.I. 2021	14 सितम्बर	119 (200 में से)

राजस्थान S.I. 2021	15 सितम्बर	126 (200 में से)
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RAJASTHAN VDO 2021	27 दिसंबर (2nd शिफ्ट)	61 (100 में से)
RAJASTHAN VDO 2021	28 दिसंबर (1st शिफ्ट)	56 (100 में से)
RAJASTHAN VDO 2021	28 दिसंबर (2nd शिफ्ट)	57 (100 में से)
U.P. SI 2021	14 नवम्बर 2021 1st शिफ्ट	91 (160 में से)
U.P. SI 2021	21 नवम्बर 2021 (1st शिफ्ट)	89 (160 में से)

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VDO PRE. - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXdAk856Wl8&t=202s>

Patwari - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6mKGdtXyu4&t=103s>

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Part - 5 Society, World History and Post-Independence India

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Part -1 Polity, Constitution and Governance

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