NEXT IAS

खण्ड—A / Section-A

Q.1 Reason has always existed, but not always in a reasonable form.
तर्क सदैव अस्तित्व में रहा है, परंतु हमेशा युक्तियुक्त रूप में नहीं।

Q.2 The opposite of poverty is not wealth.
गरीबी की विपरीत स्थिति केवल दौलत होना नहीं है।

Q.3 To forgive is to set a prisoner free and to discover that the prisoner was you.
क्षमा करने का अर्थ है अपने भीतर के एक कैदी को मुक्त करना और यह पता लगाना कि वो कैदी आप ही थे।

Q.4 A man who wants to lead the orchestra must turn his back on the crowd.
जो व्यक्ति ऑर्केस्ट्रा का नेतृत्व करना चाहता है उसे भीड़ से मुँह मोड़ लेना चाहिए।

The opposite of poverty is not wealth

Hypothetically assume a case. A man named Ram singh is a poor daily wage labourer. Due to some uncertain things he looses his jobs as it was unorganized. Now he becomes eligible for Universal Basic Income. Ram singh is given some amount so that he & his family can live with dignity. But after getting the amount he tries to double it through gambling. To forget the pain of losses he even starts

drug abuse and then vents out his frustration to his wife and children by beating them.

This become the story of every month and he gets addicted to gambling as well as drugs abuse.

Earlier Ram Singh's family used to have access to two times meal through wages and his child used to go a nearby public school as well. But Now, after the income support, he neither tried to find a new job, nor gave that money at home for household expenditure and child's education. Thus worsening their condition more. Making them more poor and also causing learning poverty of his child.

This case shows how money/wealth can't be the answer of poverty. Curing poverty needs different interventions.

In this essay we will explore various dimensions like what one means by poverty?, why can't wealth be the opposite of poverty?, Then what is the role of wealth? and lastly what interventions needed to cure different types of poverty.

Lets start by knowing what poverty means. According to Amartya Sen poverty is a situation where people don't have access to basic things required for survival life, not only for survival but also for a dignityful life which provide fuller participation (social, political, Economical) to people.

Poverty also means deprivation, Deprivation which leads to inaccessibility of resources.

According to Mahatma Gandhi

" Poverty is the most worst form of violence".

i.e great inequality is created by poverty that it leads to a form of violence as per Gandhiji. Then the question arises what's the cure?, WEALTH?. CAN WEALTH CURE POVERTY?

To answer these question we will have to analyze poverty and its various forms. Poverty is of various kinds and no one reason is cause of poverty. Infact there are multiple causes and multiple forms which simultaneously impacts the individual & causes poverty.

And thus UNDP & OPHI brings

Multidimensional poverty Index which shows that poverty is not all about Economic poverty but also social (Health & education) & political (representation) also to some extent. MPI shows 22% people in India suffer from absolute poverty.

The index show how various other parameter also contribute towards poverty like sanitation, cook fuel, etc constituting Basic necessity of individual which was again measured in terms of Basic Necessity Index (Economic Survey 2021)

Wealth just can't bridge every cause of poverty that exist at individual societal and National or international level.

Looking at the individual level poverty is caused when one doesn't get access to better education, Health facilities, skill sets due to many structural issues like caste discrimination, inequality

lack of institutional capabilities etc. Not just this but also harsh <u>environmental conditions</u> (Delhi floods), poor <u>technological</u> or <u>digital penetration or awareness</u> also <u>causes poverty</u>. And these causes can't be just tackled by wealth.

At <u>social and national level</u> too, various causes like <u>restricted social mobility</u>, <u>lack of opportunity</u>, prevalent <u>inequality and social injustice</u> can't be heated through wealth. For example <u>Oxfam report</u> shows <u>top 1% of the population helds 40% of national wealth</u> white bottom 50% have only 6%. This occures due to structural problems entrenched in the social system.

Lastly poverty at <u>international level also prevails</u>. Many countries like <u>Global south nations</u> are least developed and are poor marred with multiple challenges

like political interventions & dominance by developed countries, Environmental Racism where developed countries use these least developed or poor countries as dumpyard to throw their wastes. Digital divide at international level also causes learning poverty and the technological poverty. Then what can wealth do?

Wealth is not opposite of poverty for sure. But yes, wealth can help in reducing the impact of poverty to some extent. How?, lets see.

Through wealth an individual feels empowered to have access to at least basic requirement through which he/she can live with dignity (Art 21). It gives purchasing power to have clean fuel (instead of cow dung), better Health, Better education and skill set. Also an individual can get technological learnings thus reducing digital divide

which helps in dealing with <u>learning poverty</u> (A huge challenge as per <u>world bank</u>.)

Wealth can also give access to new age technologies which makes life easier and can help women by reducing their time in household chores thus tackling <u>Time POVERTY</u>. According to <u>Time use Survey</u> wome in general sacrifice their 2 hr sleep daily to complete their household works along with office work.

Not only at individual level but also at societal or National level wealth can create <u>better opportunities</u> by increasing <u>capital expenditure</u> and creating <u>infrastructure</u> which has multiplier effect and will help reducing poverty. This is the reason <u>Budget 2023</u> enhanced its capital expenditure to <u>10 Lakh crore</u> (3.3% of GDP.)

Moreover wealth can help bridging the developmental gaps between developed and less developed countries through means like climate financing (loss & Damage fund created in COP 27), Technology transfer, Developmental projects & help during crisis (India gave $4 bn to Sri Lanka during crisis). Investments by India & Japan in African nation can reduce poverty intensity.

If not wealth, then what constitute as opposite to poverty? The answer is no one intervention can lead to deal with poverty. As poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomena, we also need multipronged and multistakeholder approach to deal with it. because

" Poverty anywhere is threat to Prosperity everywhere."
—Kofi annan

And to deal with this threat to prosperity we need holistic approach - involving various sectors.

At governance level we need to check targetted use of our wealth which should be reached to the most needy people eliminating all leakages and duplications. for example Justice G. Rohini commission was set up to further categorized OBC to provide benefits of reservation to the needy section.

Economic reforms and interventions have direct bearing on tackling with poverty. Better social as well as physical infrastructure (connectivity, Public transports), Skill improvements through formal education and training (NEP2020 talks about vocational training) And employment creation through labour intensive sectors like Textile, food processing and promoting MSMEs.

When talking about environment we need to make our infrastructure resilient to disasters. 70% of area of country is prone to one or multiple disaster pushing millions of people into extreme poverty every year.

We need to ensure better food and drinking water access as everything is directly linked to poverty.

Last but not the least, when the world is moving towards Industrial Revolution 4.0, we need to empower people through digital education bridging the digital divide across all dimensions, be it Rural-Urban gender divide where 24% urban and only 4% Rural households have own computer (NSSO) and also at gender level (only 1/3rd women use internet)

Empowerment of every section beyond gender (male, female, LGBTQ), beyond physical/geographical reach (Rural, urban, fringe areas), transcending all the regional or ascribed identity (caste, class, Religion, ethnicity, race etc) is the need of the hour.

"As long as Poverty, injustice and Gross inequality persists in the society, none of us can truely rest" — Nelson Mandela

thus we need to remove poverty, we need to put efforts for a better future ahead. As seen in the case of Ramsingh its not only the wealth but multidimensional & structural reforms which can remove poverty.

खण्ड–B / Section–B

Q.5 International Trade is a good indicator of National Security.

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा का एक अच्छा सूचक है।

Q.6 It is not that we use technology, we live technology.

ऐसा नहीं है कि हम प्रौद्योगिकी का उपयोग करते हैं, हम प्रौद्योगिकी को जीते हैं।

Q.7 There is more to life than simply increasing its speed.

जीवन में केवल अपनी गति बढ़ाने के अलावा और भी बहुत कुछ है।

Q.8 Nature is neither a servant nor a master, but a necessary partner.

प्रकृति न तो सेवक है और न ही स्वामी, बल्कि एक आवश्यक सहभागी है।

"Nature is neither a Servant nor a master, but a necessary Partner."

Charles Darwin in his seminal work "On the origin of species" talks about "survival of the fittest". The terms means that human or for that matter the surviving creatures are have the capability to evolve.

Human is the biggest example of evolution, survival and Adaptation. Earlier (Stone ages), Nature use to be the master and people were badly affected

by the harsh nature which led to many devastations. For example it is said that the great Indus civilization ended due to flood.

Later man evolved and through its adaptive capability got a strong hold over the nature and started controlling the nature. The result of making the Nature slave is in our front. Every year millions of people lose their lives due to natural disasters which is said to be an adaptive response of the nature.

This makes us think about the interaction between human & Nature. "Nothing in excess is good" and therefore we should have a balanced relation. And that is by making Nature our partner.

In this essay we will explore dimensions like why do we need to establish a balanced partnership in the first place? And what if we fail to establish it? what steps should be taken and analyzing the taken steps.

So lets start by understanding why do we need to establish a balanced partnership. This can be understood by a famous quote of Mahatma Gandhi i.e.

"Earth has enough for everyone's need but not for everyone's greed" that means if we greedily exploit the nature by making it a slave it will impact adversely.

This is the only reason why intellectuals and environmental organizations like IPCC are warning regularly to restore the balance which has been replaced by exploitation.

21

Thus providing a glimpse by highlighting the present scenario, the reality comes forth. We can assume the adversities and bad impact which will take place if the balance is not established. The consequence will take place at multiple sectoral levels.

At political level the exploitative nature of human can create issues among states. for example water sharing disputs. And the reducing natural resources are also creating conflicts and dissent among people which disturbs the governance of the region and the nations as a whole. for example polycrisis in Pakistan along with the devastating flood and Resignation of the then PM Imran khan can't be just a coincidence showing the linkage of the embalance with political stability.

The most direct consequences that one can think of is Environmental menace. It is observed that Arctic climate is warming at a double speed than the rest of the world (IPCC Report). It also highlighted that Arctic will be icefree by 2050 due to the speed of glacier melting.

These kind of threats creates chances of destruction of wildlife habitats for example Polar bears losing their home.

The developing El-Nino and frequently changing atmospheric circulations have wide ranging impact on people's lives as it affects Indian monsoon which directly impacts million of lives as India is majorly an agrarian nation.

The greed of people & encroachments are creating Deforestation and undermining the meaning of very famous saying-

"Forests are lungs of the earth"

thus jeopardizing lives of all living-beings by destroying the ecological balance. for example Government gave clearance for 'Great Nicobar Project' which is a developmental project in Nicobar island which is a Biodiversity hotspot and its estimated that it will cut lakhs of trees for the developmental project.

There are many more examples like slowing down of Atlantic meridian oceanic circulation AMOC which Comes under Nine tipping point will have irreversible changes. Other issues like Disasters (cyclone, flood, heatwave etc) bring many challenges with them.

Apart from the environmental aspect this partnership between human & Nature is necessary for social wellbeing too.

As we can see, many conflicts often arises due to scarce resources. Encroachments often harm indigenous people and Tribals. They often face threat of loosing their cultural and distinctive identity which is also secured under constitution (Art 29 & 30).

Other social issues being ethnic strifes which also challenges internal security. Naxalism or left wing Extremism was also there in which scarce resources was a major reason. The crunch on resources also happens when Migration takes place. International organization of Migration says that annually millions of people displace due to environmental issues.

The internal displacements also fuel "son of the soil" tendencies" in people. for example Haryana passed bill giving 75% reservation 25 to local people.

Thus it was the result glimpse of consequences of failing to establish a _healthy partnership_ between human and nature. So is there any kind of balance established by us?

The answer is yes. Largely we tend to observe the negative aspects more often but there are some balances which we have attempted to establish:

At small _level many communities are_ striving for conservation for example using _forest Rights Act 2006_ a symbiotic _relation_ between tribals and forests have been established. the tribals at _Gadhchiroli_ have conserved the forest and increased the _forest area_ in last decade.

Other such community level efforts like conserving "_Sacred groves_" by community considering it religious, is a good example.

At societal and national level government is trying to establish partnership through schemes like Atal Bhujal Yojana, catch the Rain for Rain water Harvesting and there are number of schemes and plans. This balance is even measured by forest survey of India biennially.

Talking about International level, we all know that the last year (2022) marked many major summits like Conference of Party (COP) 27 of UNFCCC, COP for Convention of Biodiversity and the 'Global Stocktake' is going to take place.

At COP 27, Countries pledged for climate financing and 'loss & Damage' fund so that the consequence of imbalance manifested in forms of disaster can be mitigated.

Many other efforts like Transitioning towards Green & clean energy (International Solar Alliance) and creating disaster resilient Infrastructure are some of the initiatives.

However many of these initiatives are marred with challenges like low implementation, low people participation (like public hearing period was reduced in Environment Impact (Amend) Assessment Act.)

Still without getting disheartened by these challenges we need to work towards a better way ahead.

Way ahead needs strong political will and strong cooperation. Without getting more policies, we should implement the existing mechanisms effectively to have better results.

approach that is giving due respect to the traditional knowledge of conservation along with technological upgradation of implementation. For example Geotagging of various natural resources and monitoring through Remote sensing can help in their conservation.

We should promote grass root participation by methods like localization of sustainable development goals as recommended by NITI Aayog.

To conclude, its very important to conserve the nature for our future generation as a famous saying conveys-

"We haven't inherited the earth from our ancestors but we have borrowed it from our children."

- BNI
- MPI
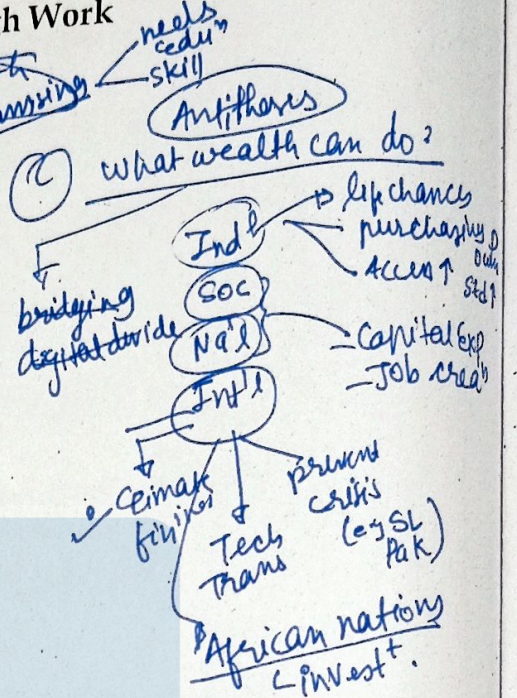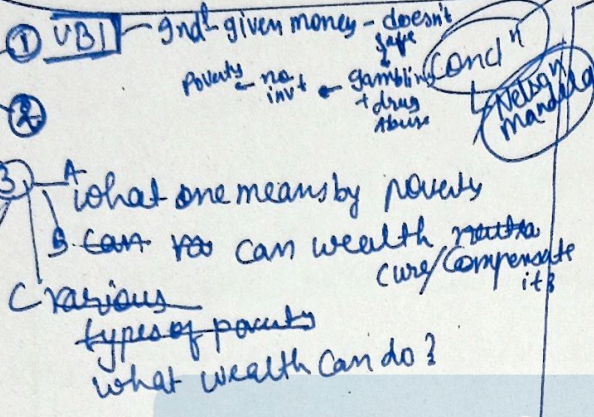- Quotes - Kofi Annan, Mother Teresa
  - Nelson MKG, Mandela
- Migrant crisis (COVID), low bargaining power
- 415mn PPL

Space for Rough Work

Opposite of Poverty is not wealth - Ramsingh - needs edu^n skill

(Intro)
1. UBI - 3rd given money - doesn't solve
   - Poverty - no invt ← Gambling + drug abuse - Concl^n - Nelson Mandela
2.
3. A. what one means by poverty
   B. can wealth matter cure/compensate it
   C. various types of poverty - what wealth can do?
   - Cure?
   - Impact

(A) Meaning - Amartya Sen - def^n
   - Depriva^n
   - worst form of violence (MKG)

(C)

(B) why wealth/poverty is not opposite of Poverty
   - can't cure it
   - multidimensional (MPI) - 3nd? - PEST - Representa^n (poverty as no voice) → Emotional poverty (Emotional racism)
   - SOC Na'l - Access - digital to health edu - Learning Poverty - Time poverty - TUS
   - Causes Depriva^n
   - Various types - Relative - Absolute - Int'l
     - African
     - Dependency & Devt theory - Global south - climate financing - Tech transfer
     - Devt - Restrict social mobility - life chances - Discrimina^n - breeds inequality injustice - Oxfam
     - Poverty ⟹ ↑ caste consciousness → leads to crime

(C) what wealth can do?
   - Ind - Soc - Na'l - Int'l
   - bridging digital divide
   - life chances purchasing power, Access ↑, ocln std ?
   - Capital Exp - Job crea^n
   - Climate fin^g, Tech Trans, prevent crisis (eg SL, Pak)
   - African nation ∟ invest.

(D) If not wealth then what is opposite of Poverty?
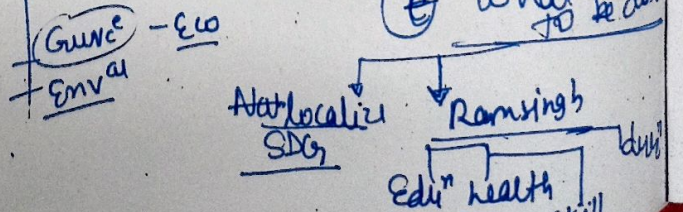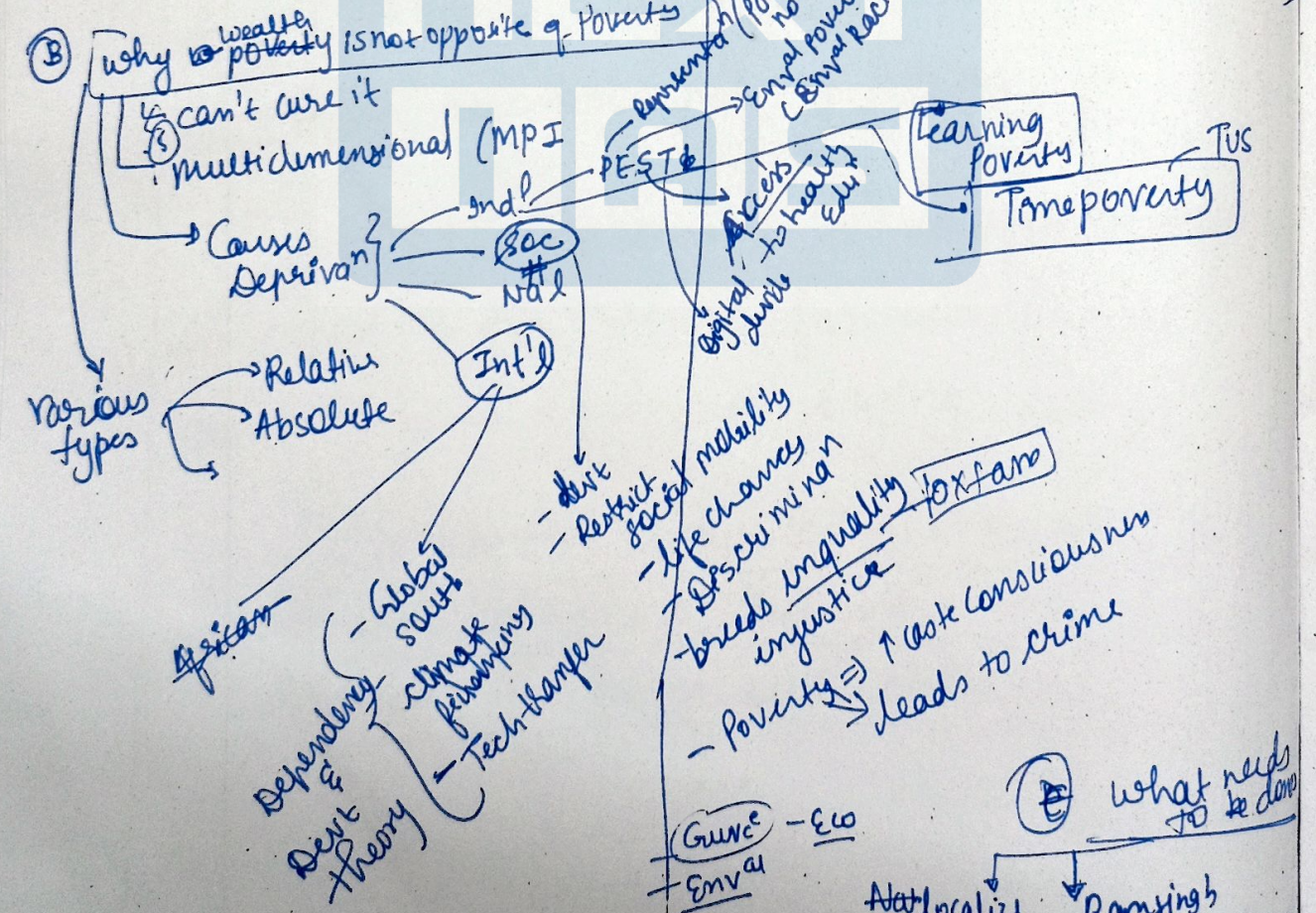
(E) what needs to be done
   - Govt^c - Eco - Envr
   - Not Localise SDGs - Ramsingh - dur^n
   - Edu^n health skill

Darwin
Carlin
Nature-master
PPI-servant

Gandhi → everyone need & Greed "Forest burn of ☺

Conc^n → not Inherited Earth from ancestor but borrowed from child

Intro
① → gradualism adapted
② got hold over nature
③

Nature is neither a servant nor a master but a necessary partner.

"Exploits"

both are not right
"life needs a balance"

Present scenario → Gandhi
Greta Thunberg.

wildlife (Polar bear)
habitat
Ice melting Arctic by 2030
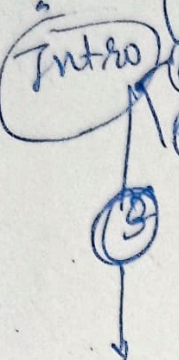
Qns → Why do we need balance → Env^al challenge G-warming
what if balance partnership is not established. → social challenge ⌐ Ethnic
                                                                    Tribal
                                                                    (Forest Right Act)

How can we do it?

Political
↳ Dissent
↳ Unrest
Human Rights

Pak flood
& removal of
PM (Imran Khan)
can't be a coincidence

We can find some balance