

NEXT IAS**GRADED ASSESSMENT TEST 2025**

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : M25GAT04**TEST NO. : 04**

Name of Candidate: ANANYA RANA

Roll No.: CAVA25ECL1569 Start Time 2:36pm.. End Time 4:06pm

Date of Examination: 13th JULY 2025 Mobile No.

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
Total Marks : 50		

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
6	15	
7	15	
8	15	
9	15	
10	15	
Total Marks : 75		

GRAND TOTAL -/ 125

EVAL CODE: GRADED DATE:

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Immediately on receipt of the QCA booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.
2. Candidates must mention all relevant details like Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile, etc. in the space allocated.
3. Candidate is expected to attempt all 10 questions within the given timeline.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized at the time of admission.
5. Candidates must write answers for the specific question under the respective question itself. Any answer written outside the space allotted may not be given credit.
6. Please write neatly. Avoid illegible writing.
7. Do not write/mark irrelevant matters in the QCAB.
8. Only those copies that are submitted on the date of exam till 5 pm will be graded.

REMARKS:

.....

.....

.....

MARKING SCHEME *

Marks Per Ques	Below Average	Average	Above Average
10 Marks	Below 2.50	3.00 - 3.50	4.00 and above
15 Marks	Below 4.00	4.00 - 5.50	6.00 and above

* Subject to change without prior notice.

MACRO COMMENTS

The Purpose of evaluation@nextias.com is to provide constructive suggestions on 'How to improve Answer Writing and thereby score better marks.'

STRENGTHS OF THE CANDIDATE

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

Q1 'Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) plays a pivotal role in laying the foundation for formal primary education and ensuring the holistic development of children.' Examine the current status of ECCE in India. What steps can be taken to improve the quality of elementary education in the country? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) refers to the period between 3 to 6 years of age of a child when the brain is most active to absorb formal primary education.

ECCE - Pivotal role in laying foundation for primary education & holistic development

① Transition of children into learning process.

② Formative years of nutrition and healthy lifestyle

③ Have long term impact on life expectancy

Current status of ECCE in India

Achievements

Challenges

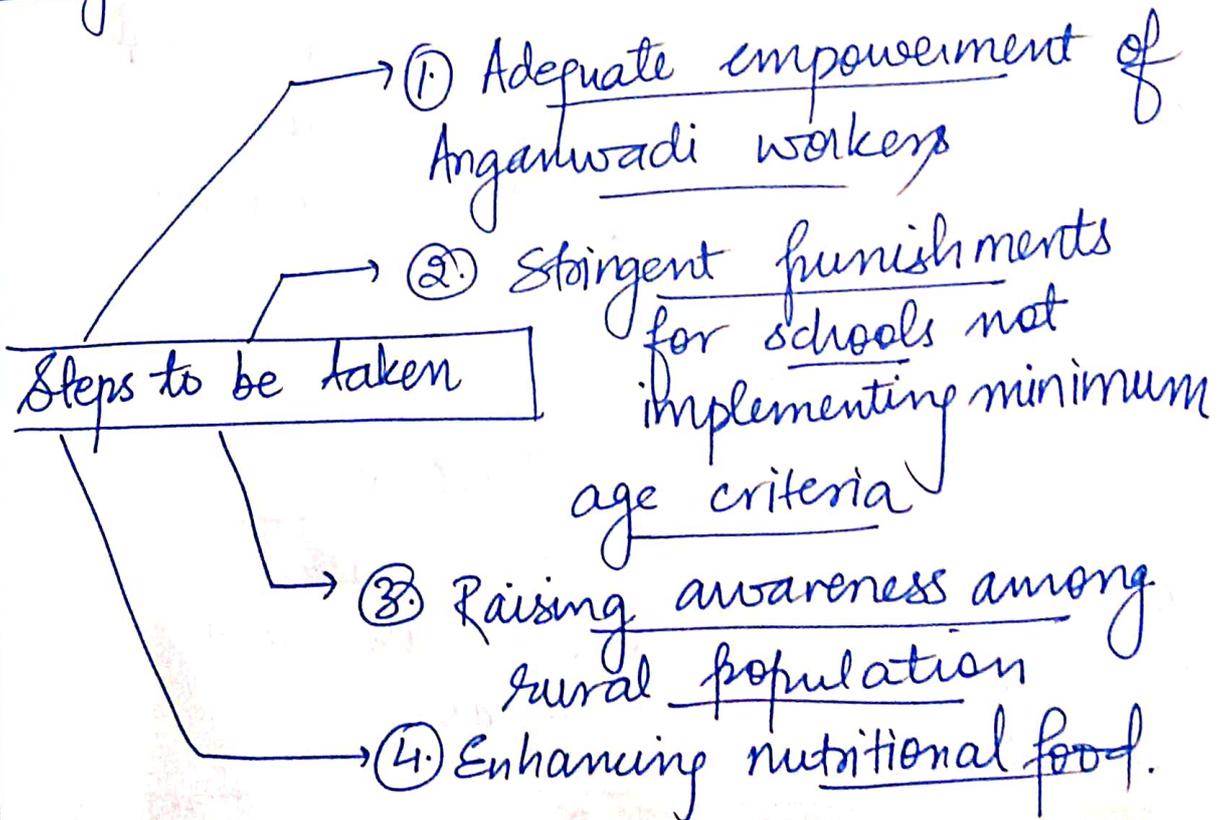
① Inclusion of ECCE in National Education Policy, 2020.

① Inadequate facilities in rural areas.

② Focus on ECCE

② Regulatory gaps in

<p>as a building rock for life-long learning</p>	<p>enforcement mechanism ⓐ children not attending Anganwadi centre</p>
<p>(3) Various scheme workers - Anganwadis empowered to achieve the goal.</p>	<p>(3) Inadequate compensation to Anganwadi workers</p>
<p>(4) Minimum age of 6 years set to enter class I</p>	<p>(4) Objection of states to mid day meal menu - ⓐ eggs.</p>
<p>(5) Schemes - PM POSHAN, Padhai bhi, Sehat Bhi etc. Anganwadi Vatika</p>	<p>(5) Need systemic overhauling of facilities ⓐ quality of education</p>



ECCE is a transformational step that will ensure India's golden future

Q2.

'Despite the growing harmful impact of online spaces on adolescents, curbing these negative effects remains a significant challenge'. Discuss the factors responsible for this challenge and suggest measures to protect adolescents in the digital age.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Economic Survey (2023-24) has pointed out the growing challenge of harmful online spaces leading to mental health issues in children and adolescents.

Growing harmful impact of online spaces on adolescents

- ① cyberbullying
- ② Reduction in attention span
- ③ Sedentary lifestyle
- Obesity, mental health disorders

Factors responsible for challenge in curbing these harmful spaces

- ① Widespread access to internet - leads to unsupervised availability of online spaces. @ India has largest no. of users
- ② Dual earning households - pose a challenge in curbing harmful adolescent behaviour online

NEXT IAS

Candidates write on this
Intro :
Body :
Conc. :
Total :

Q3.

- ③ Safe harbour immunity to social media intermediaries (S 79 of IT Act)
- ④ Age inappropriate material access to adolescents. @ pornography.
- ⑤ lack of strict parental controls on apps and websites.
- ⑥ Anonymity on online platforms further aggravate the situation @ Doi's Locker group

① Clear social media policy specifically for adolescents

② Promoting strict parental control measures

@ Australia

Measures required to protect adolescents

④ Inclusion of age-appropriate sex education in schools

③ Fixing responsibility of social media intermediaries
@ Facebook case

Protection of children against harmful online spaces is not just a legal but moral responsibility for promotion of human rights

- Q3. Analyse the challenges faced by Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in India despite legislative and constitutional safeguards. Suggest reforms to bridge the gap between legislative intent and societal reality to ensure their full inclusion in society. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

The denial of wheelchair to a PwD at a prominent Indian Airport highlights the apathy of authorities against human rights of PwDs.

Legislative and Constitutional safeguards for PwDs

- ① Art 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23
(Right to life with dignity)
- ② Protection of persons with Disability Act, 2016
- ③ Provision of reservation of 4% in jobs and 5% in education

Challenges faced by PwDs

- ① Attitude of discrimination by treating them as less humans
- ② Stigmatisation of normal conditions of biological differences @ Delay in speaking among children.

NEXT IAS

③ Indifference among authorities - Lack of accessible infrastructure - ramps, braille script at museums etc.

④ Cost inhibition in availing aid devices
 (eg) wheelchairs, hearing aids etc.

⑤ Abandonment by society and parents too in some cases.

- ① Establishment of National Commission for PwDs with constitutional status
- ② Penalty for non-accessible infrastructure

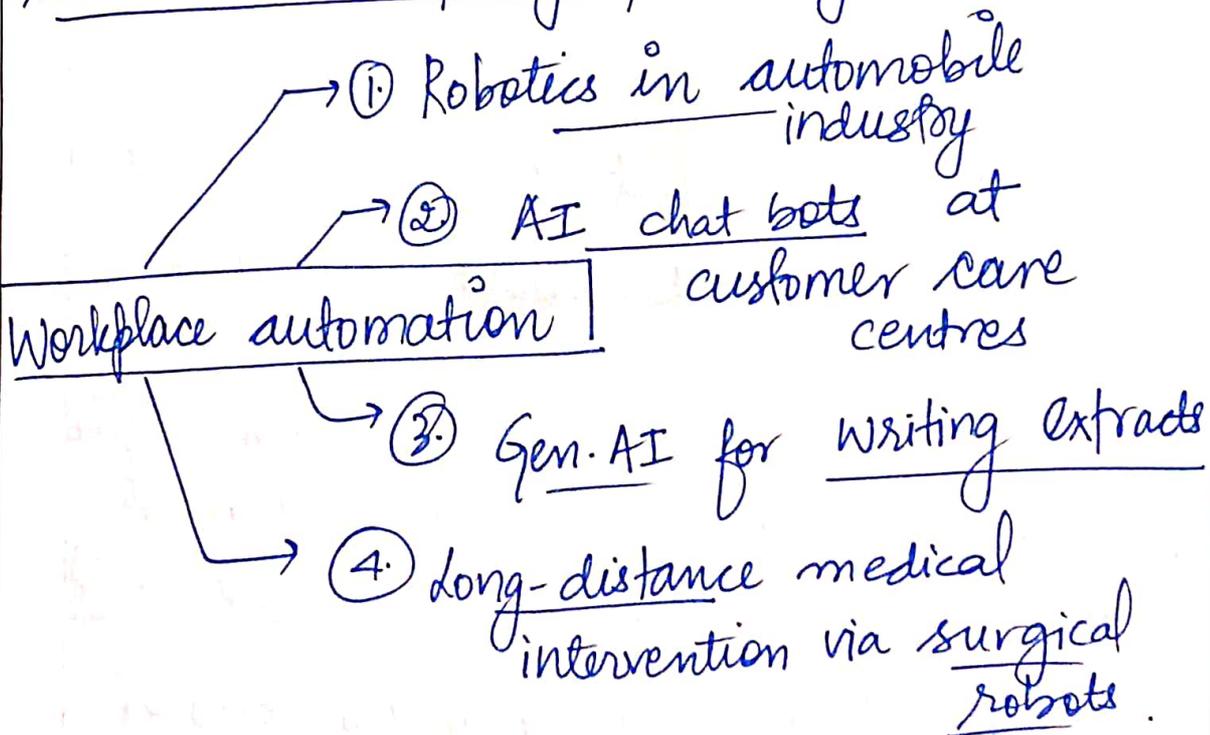
Reforms required to bridge the gap for PwDs

- ③ Implementation of schemes like 'Sugamya Bharat' in letter and spirit
- ④ Subsidising aids and devices
 (eg) ALIMCO
- ⑤ Sensitization of public (eg) Screening of 'Sitare Zameen Par'

PwDs have shown time and again that they are no less than others. Now, it is time for us to act.

- Q4. 'Workplace automation is transforming industries by enhancing efficiency and productivity'. In this context, critically evaluate the social opportunities and risks associated with workplace automation in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Proliferation of Industry 4.0 with Artificial Intelligence as its feature is leading to automation of workplaces. It is like a double-edged sword and need effective action and policy-planning.



Social opportunities associated with workplace automation

- (1) Decreasing labour cost for companies
- (2) Technological disruption leading to more investments and more research

Candidates are write on this	
Intro	
Body :	
Conc.	
Total	

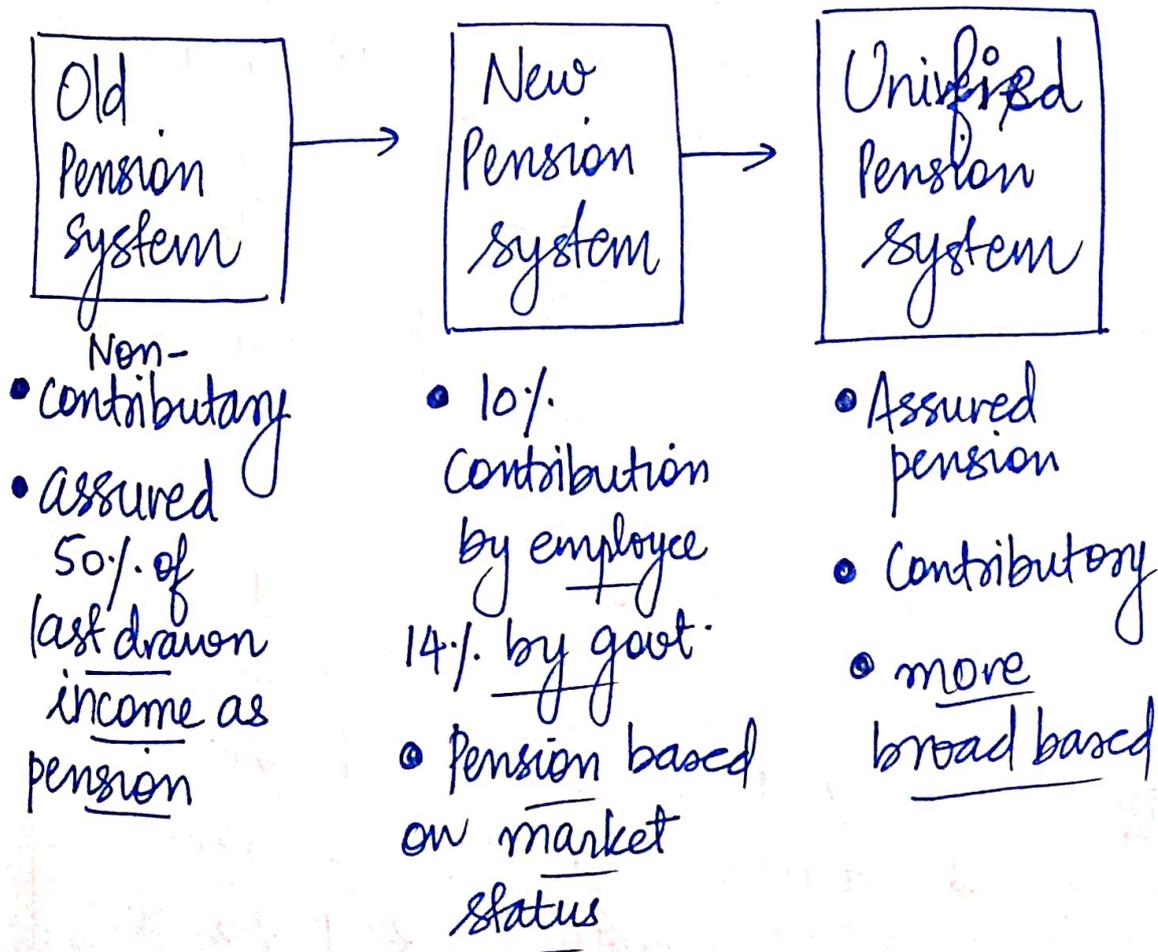
- (3) Application of Lewis model - Skilling workforce engaged in disguised employment towards learning automation control.
- (4) Opportunities for women to step out of households - automation tasks are less physically demanding.
- (5) Growth of manufacturing sector - creation of machines for automation
- ① Job loss at lower-end levels
 - ④ Mckenzie survey - About 12 million jobs will be lost by 2030.
- Risks associated with workplace automation → ② India's demographic dividend may turn into disaster
- ③ Risks of autonomous decision making (eg) self driving machines

While automation offers immense potential to transform the economic systems, yet ethical standards and upskilling of labour force is essential to prevent any incidents of 'accidents of life'

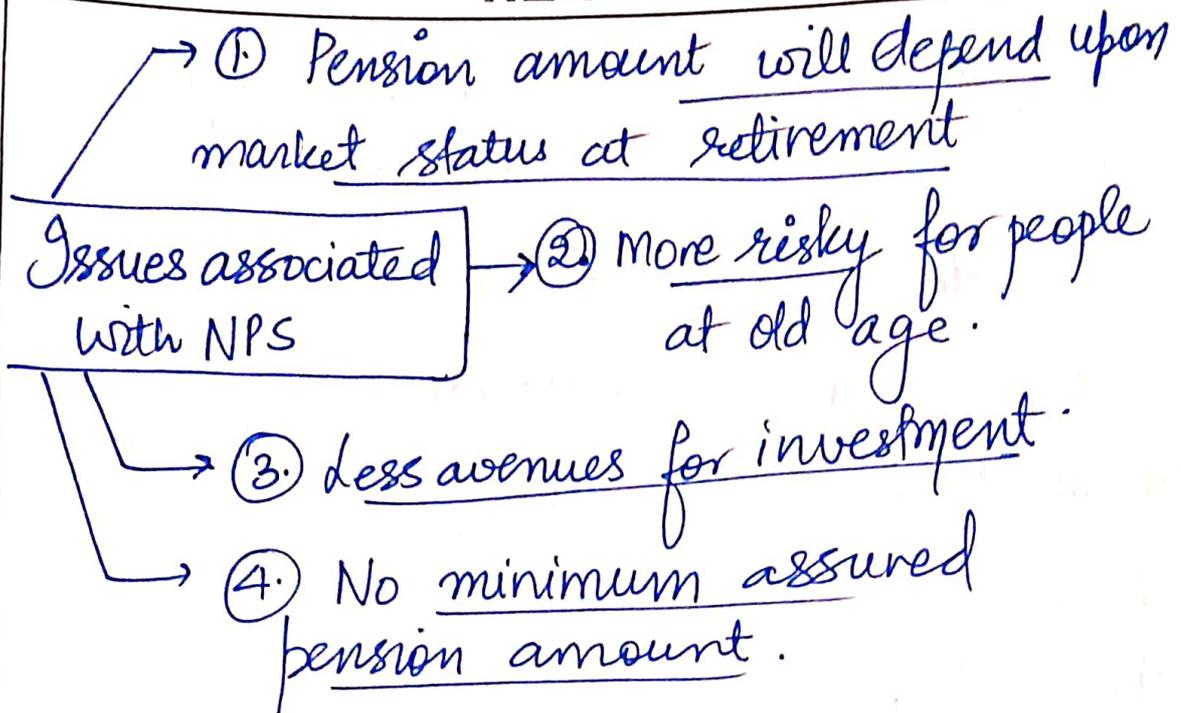
- Q5. The Indian pension system has evolved from the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) to the New Pension Scheme (NPS) and, now to the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS). In this context, discuss the issues associated with the NPS and evaluate the significance of the Unified Pension Scheme.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Indian pension system acts as a social security programme for the individuals to meet the exigencies of health, family emergency etc. after retirement.

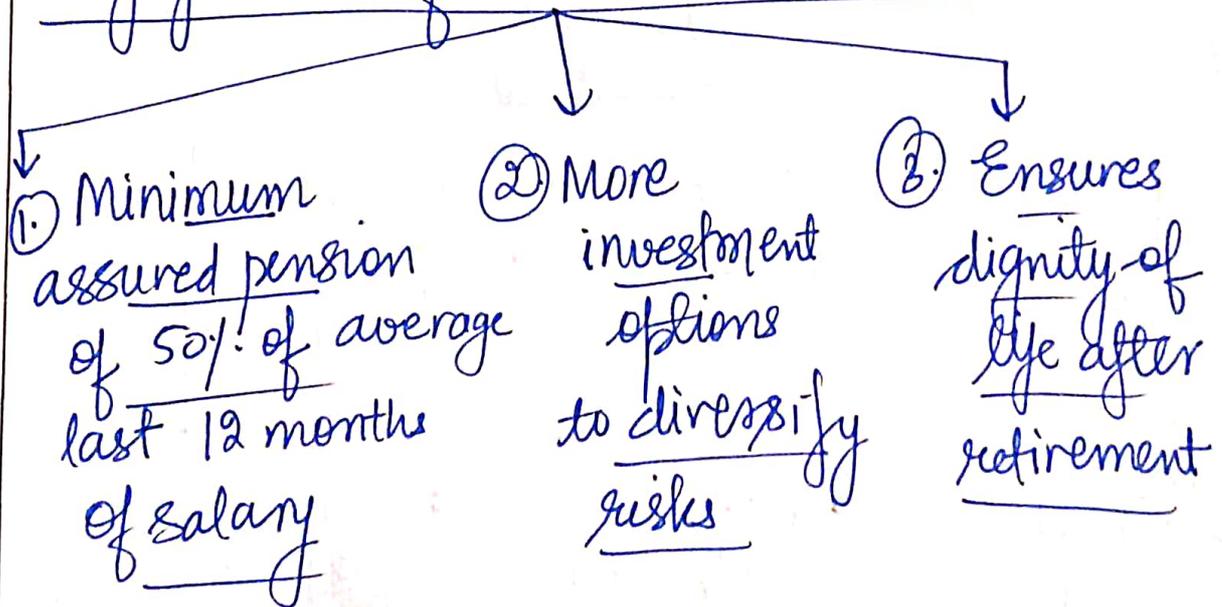
Evolution of Indian pension system



NEXT IAS



Significance of UPS scheme



UPS serves the true purpose of a welfare government where citizens are not left to fend for themselves, rather treated as equal partners in India's growth to Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

Candidates write on this

Intro :
Body :
Conc. :
Total :

- Q6. Discuss the key provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, and their role in addressing historical injustices./ What are the major challenges in its implementation? Suggest measures to overcome these challenges for effective implementation of forest rights. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act, 2006 is a step towards redressal of historical injustices committed under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 which denied tribals their right over 'jal, jangal and zameen'

Key provisions of Forest Rights Act, 2006

- ① Recognition of land ownership/produce rights for tribals whose 3 generations have been involved in forest produce collection.
- ② All minor forest produce can be collected without prior permission.
- ③ Adequate rehabilitation provisions in case of lawful eviction of tribals.

④ Keeping 'people' at centre of forest governance.

⑤ Ensuring as much co-living with nature of tribals as possible.

① Demotified criminal tribes

② Provided avenues of economic livelihood

Addressal of historical injustices

④ Ensuring integration of tribals into mainstream without forced assimilation.

③ Protection of cultural sentiments

Major challenges in its implementation

① Lack of rules framed by states for implementation.

② Illegal eviction and denial of rights continue due to subjectivity.

③ Insentitive attitude of authorities

Candidates must not write on this margin

Intro :

Body :

Conc. :

Total :

- ④ Diversion of forest land on parameters of 'public interest'
- ⑤ Inadequate compensation and rehabilitation to evicted tribals
- ⑥ Unholy nexus of bureaucrats, politicians and mafias (poachers)

① Effective grievance redressal mechanism
 (eg) online portal - real time monitoring

Measures need to improve upon challenges

② Penalties for erring officials

③ Provision of market for tribal products (eg) Aadi Mahatsav, TRIFED.

④ Providing market intelligence to tribals

(eg) via Van Bandhus

Tribals are the guardians of forests.

Tribes like Maldharis not only protect forest ecosystem but also give lessons on co-habitation

Q7.

'The rapid growth of the gig economy in India has created new employment opportunities but also exposed significant social security challenges for gig workers'. Discuss these challenges and suggest how the rationalization of labour laws can aid their formalization and integration into the social safety net. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

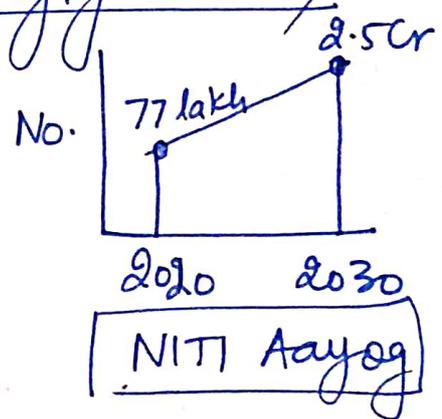
Union Budget (2025-26) has extended the Ayushman Bharat Scheme to all gig workers to ensure their health and well-being.

Rapid growth of gig economy - new employment opportunities

① Increase in number of gig workers

② Proliferation of gig platforms

③ Zomato, Swiggy, Rapido etc.



④ Flexibility of working hours - Task based remuneration

⑤ More economic opportunities for women - Increase in

Labour Force Participation Rate.

- ④ Enhanced skill development.
 (e) working as data analyst.
- ⑤ Solution for India's large workforce facing disguised unemployment.

Significant social security challenges in gig economy

- ① No safety nets for so called 'partners' as they lie outside definition of traditional employees.
 (e) no pension, insurance etc.
- ② Evolution of life threatening models of delivery. (e) 10 min delivery.
- ③ Issue of Robo-firing where rating mechanisms and algorithms decides retaining of workforce.

④ Continued threat of insecurity leading to mental health issues.

⑤ Overburdened workers (e) some 96% of the ola drivers were working 11 hours a day.

→ ① Recognition as formal workers
 → Application of Minimum Wages Act
Industrial Disputes Act.

→ ② Will get opportunity to form Trade Unions to raise their concerns

Requirement for rationalization of labour laws

→ ③ Protection under safety nets will be extended.

→ ④ Women protection against harassment

→ ⑤ Stopping 'Robo-firing' and ensuring dignity to life.

Government must bring in legal mechanisms like that of Rajasthan and Karnataka govt. to ensure "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Prayas"

- Q8. Discuss the notable developments made by India in achieving gender parity and examine the barriers that continue to hinder progress. What further measures can be adopted to make progress towards gender parity in India? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Gender parity refers to equality of opportunities to all genders irrespective of their socio-economic status in achieving their full potential politically, socially and economically. It is the power with, to and within.

Notable achievements made by India in achieving gender parity

(I) Legislative

- (1) Reservation Act on 33% reservation to women at Parliament and State legislative levels.
- (2) Protection of Transgender Rights Act.
- (3) PCPNDT Act - to prevent female foeticide.
- (4) POSH Act - to ensure safe environment to women at workplace

(II) Political

- (1) Women representatives form 46% at local levels - highest among world.
- (2) India got 1st female tribal President.

(III) Educational

- (1) Gender enrollment ratio surpasses 1. (more females than males)
- (2) No. of girls taking admission in IITs (STEM) increased to all time high in 2025.

Barriers that continue to hinder process of gender parity

(A) Socio-cultural

- (1) patriarchal attitude - girls as 'Paraya Dhan'
- (2) son-male preference - unwanted girls
- (3) 'Sita syndrome'

(B) Economic

- (1) low economic independence
- (2) less autonomy on spending money

NFHS-3: About 89% women have no autonomy in spending their own earned money

(C) Political

(1) Low representation at Parliamentary level - 14% (18th L.S.)

(2) 'Putrapati' and 'Sarpanch pati' prevalence.

(D) Institutional

(1) Insensitive attitude of stakeholders

(e) police, judiciary.

(2) Lack of adequate safety in public transport

(3) 'slow wheels of justice'.

(1) Involving 'men' as agents of change

(e) He 4 She campaign

Measures needed

(2) Economic empowerment via skilling

(3) Increasing political representation at College level itself

(4) Promote role models

(e) P.V. Sindhu, Gita Gopinath etc

Gender Parity is essential to achieve the goal of 'Sarvodaya' and 'Antodaya' and to foster equality under SDG 5 by 2030.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Intro :
Body :
Conc. :
Total :

Q9.

Critically examine the various welfare measures undertaken for senior citizens in India. Analyse the need for a comprehensive policy to effectively address the challenges faced by the elderly in the country. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

According to UNPFA, India will have a significant number of senior citizens by the end of 2030.

This demands effective planning and policy making.

Welfare measures undertaken for senior citizens

Achievements	Challenges
<p>① Net safety measures for <u>retired employees</u></p> <p>② <u>UPS</u></p>	<p>① Rising <u>threat of loneliness</u> due to <u>nuclear families</u></p>
<p>② Schemes like <u>Vay Vandan Yojana</u> for <u>informal / non-working elderly</u></p>	<p>② Poor conditions of <u>old Age Homes</u></p> <p>③ Recent inspection in <u>Noida</u></p>

(3) Provision for wilful
re-employment
(a) ~~re-employment~~ programme
SACRED

(3) Increasing
cases of cyber crimes
against elderly.

(4) 'SAFE' initiative for
elderly-aid device
startups.

(4) Out of pocket
expenditure for
3rd health services

(5) Extention of health
insurance under
Ayushman Bharat
(for all > 70 years)

(5) Mental health
disorders among
elderly.

Need for comprehensive policy for
elderly

(1) To utilise their experiences in
diverse fields @ education,
healthcare etc.

(2) To ensure their well-being in
times of rising re-location of
families.

- (3.) To promote Silver economy
 (e) elderly care gadgets etc.
- (4.) To fulfill constitutional mandatt
Article 41 - assistance in old age.
- (5.) To further age-old traditions of
respecting elderly.
 - protecting against digital arrests,
mental health disorders
- (6.) Avenues for growth of care economy
 (e) Nurses, full time caretakers etc.

It is high time India that goes for setting up National Elderly Protection and Welfare Policy. It will not only serve the moral obligations but will also also it to reap its demographic dividend of Silver Economy

- Q10. Discuss the factors that have led to a significant increase in internal migration in the country over the past two decades. What are the challenges faced by migrant workers in India? Suggest measures that are needed to address these challenges.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

According to Census 2011, there are about 455.78 million internal migrants constituting 37% of population.

Factors that have led to increase in internal migration in country

(I) Push factors

- ① Lack of economic opportunities in rural and remote areas.
- ② Loss in agricultural productivity
- ③ Inadequate educational facilities for children.
- ④ Aspirations for higher level of living standards.

(II) Pull factors

- ① Greener pastures - industries,

gig work etc.

② Better standards of education, living and societal mixing.

③ Escape for caste discrimination.

↳ urban areas offer anonymity and heterogeneity.

④ Marriage related women migration.

⑤ Industry 4.0 generated jobs

① Repetition of rural discrimination

↳ ghettoization in terms of slums

② Social strife with netizens

↳ sons of soil policy

↳ Maharashtra

Challenges faced by migrants

④ Feeling of isolation & mental health disorders

③ Adjustment issues - language, culture, emotional connection with homeland

Candidates must n
write on this marg

Intro :

Body :

Conc. :

Total :

→ ① National Domestic Migrants Policy
with clear guidelines on their
safety

→ ② Addressing regional disparity
to reduce migration.

⊕ Industrial corridors

Measures needed to
address challenges
faced by migrants

→ ③ Effective
public health
services for
migrants

⊕ Aarogya
Mandirs

→ ④ Ensuring
quality food under PDS,
One Nation, one Ration Scheme

→ ⑤ Migrant Policy by States

⊕ Kerala's policy of teaching
Malayalam to migrant's children

Migrants are the growth engines of
India's economic prowess. Their safety &
well being should be utmost priority.