

Insights Mains Offline Test Series 2015General Studies Paper – 3

Mock Test – 6

25 September 2015

**Duration:** 1 Hour

*Answer ALL the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 words each. Contents of the answers are more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks. (10x10 = 100)*

1. “The replacement of the Planning Commission by Niti Aayog will help change the emphasis from projects and programmes to policy and institutions, from expenditure inputs to real outcomes through better governance, and from political disputation over incremental allocations to new challenges and opportunities.” Comment.
2. It is argued that price subsidies do not appear to have had a transformative effect on the living standards of the poor and a closer look at the price subsidy landscape reveals why they may not be the government’s best weapon of choice in the fight against poverty. Do you agree with this view? Substantiate.
3. It is said that the current state of the public private partnership (PPP) model is due to poorly designed frameworks and this has resulted in financially stressed infrastructure projects. Examine the flaws in the design of existing PPP model and suggest modifications.
4. The latest Economic Survey argues that greater public investment in the railways would boost aggregate growth and the competitiveness of Indian manufacturing substantially. Discuss.
5. Both APMC and Model APMC Acts act as source of problems in agriculture sector rather than acting as solutions. Critically discuss.
6. While encouraging inward flow of FDI, India has also encouraged outbound flow of FDI from the country over the years. Examine why this was encouraged, its recent growth trends and its effect on incoming FDI.
7. The recommendations of the High Level Committee (HLC) constituted under the chairmanship of Shanta Kumar to restructure, reorient and reform the Food Corporation of India (FCI) have been both welcomed and criticised. Examine the merits and demerits of these recommendations vis a vis their implications for food security in India.
8. In your opinion, what are the important drivers of agricultural growth in India? Analyse their role.
9. Land reforms have been half-heartedly attempted at various times and this has proved to be a case of the remedy being worse than the disease. Critically analyse.
10. It is said that the food processing industry is neither attracting FDI nor being shown much interest by private players. Discuss the challenges faced by this industry, their causes and remedies.