

GS 3 Exam Time Synopsis of 250 Topics (MAINS 2019)**1. Infra Financing Issues**

Need	Need to finance the burgeoning infrastructure sector, upgrading old and new infrastructure projects, long- gestation periods, IL&FS mess, boost to economic prospects and employment
Reasons	Cost and time overruns , Inappropriate risks sharing , Uncertainty in policy and regulatory frameworks , Prolonged disputes , Poor financial health, high capital cost , rising NPAs, Non-deepening of bond market
Government and RBI initiatives	India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL), National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), tax-free infrastructure bonds, masala bonds, 100% FDI under automatic route, Liberalised ECB , RBI categorised infrastructure lending NBFCs, FIIs allowed to invest in infrastructure debt funds, Green bond scheme, Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), Credit Guarantee Enhancement Corporation
Way Forward	stipulated time frame for clearances, specialised rating agency , full Capital account convertibility , tap into long term investment funds , attract sovereign funds and green bonds , explore foreign markets, Municipal bonds, Tax breaks for Infra bonds, effective bankruptcy regime, Tobin-tax like alternatives

2. Logistics Sector

Objectives	multi-modal movement of cargo on par with global logistics standards, Reduce the logistics cost , Expand the logistics market , Improve logistics skilling and increase jobs , reduce border compliance
Status	According to Economic Survey 2018-19 , the logistics sector can be the largest job creator by 2022. Currently provides employment to more than 72 crore. Logistics costs in India are high relative to other countries. In WEF Global Competitiveness Index India was ranked 66th.
Government Initiatives	Logistics included in the harmonised master list of the infrastructure sub-sector, New Logistics Division in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Logistic Hub in Assam, Logistic Efficiency Enhancement programme , GST , draft National Logistics Policy , Infrastructure status has been given to select logistics activities. Subsidy to develop cold chains and pack houses.

Constraints	Cost of logistics, Lack of Coordination due to multiple stakeholders' involvement, low value addition in warehousing, fragmented structure , lack of interoperable technology and last mile connectivity , High Border compliance and document processing time
Way Forward- NITI recommendations	Rationalise tariffs, Create an overarching body that maintains all transport data, Enhance efficiency of warehouses, Create vertical silos, Setting up multimodal logistics parks, Allow private players in CONCOR, develop an integrated IT platform, shift towards international standards

3. Oil and Natural Gas

Objectives	Reduce imports of oil and gas by 10% by 2022-23.
Status	World's third largest energy consumer, its per capita energy consumption lower the world average, heavily dependent on petroleum imports, 16000 km of gas pipeline networks exists. According to Economic Survey 2018-19 , India's primary energy demand is expected to grow at a CAGR of 4.21% during 2017-2040, much faster than any major economy in the world.
Government Initiatives	Complete mapping of 26 sedimentary basin, National Gas Grid, Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga, Pratyaksh Hanstantrit Labh (PAHAL), Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, LPG Panchayat, Start-up Sangam initiative, Saksham-2018, Gas4India Campaign, Sustainable Alternative towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT), City Gas Distribution (CGD) Network
Policies	New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), Discovered Small Field Policy, Coal bed Methane Policy, 1997
Constraints	Reliance on Imports for Gas Supply, Pricing and Affordability , Not yet liberalised completely, Lack in transmission infrastructure , Poor Quality and availability of field data , Lack of progress of international gas pipelines , need to augment refining capacity , Discriminatory access , Lack of market-driven gas prices
Way Forward- NITI recommendations	integrated national-level energy policy , mechanism to protect from higher gas prices , Development of gas infrastructure , Dismantling of Administered Price Mechanism , common carrier and open access to gas pipelines, Separate developmental and regulatory functions of PNGRB, establish the National Gas Grid, use of cutting-edge technology , market pricing, shared infrastructure, viability gap funding , strategic reserves

4. RERA Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016

Provisions	Establishment of Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) and Real Estate Appellate Tribunal (REAT), Registration of real estate project with RERA, Definition of carpet area , Cap on advance payment , Adherence to sanctioned plans , Compensation to the allottees, Penal provisions for promoters
Significance	increasing transparency and accountability, forums for grievance redressal , lower litigation, greater flow of investment
Hurdles	Escrow account , onus on builder can be manipulated, delays and disputes lead to litigations , fails to address problem of black money , cost of construction might be higher than 70% of total cost, difficult to sell units based on carpet area , 'net usable floor area' not defined, delays due to governmental approvals, time limit for the adjudication process might not work, lack of political will in states, upgradation of land records , land laws under state list .
Recommendations of Standing Committee	Exclusion of certain projects, Registration of all real estate agents , Single window system for project approvals, define 'Net usable floor area'

5. Railway Sector

Objectives	Augment capacity infrastructure ., Increase the speed of <u>infrastructure creation</u> , 100% electrification of broad gauge, Increase the average speed of <u>freight and mail/express trains</u> , Improve the safety , Enhance service delivery , Increase freight load and improved modal share , Increase the share of non-fare revenues
Status	According to Economic Survey 2018-19 , Rail freight and passenger traffic grew , Indian Railways is the fourth largest network globally, Modal share of railways freight has declined , Expenditure on the railways declined
Government Initiatives	National High Speed Corporation', Vandhe Bharat Express, Mission 41K, Rail Wire Sathi, Rail Wire Sathi, independent regulator-Rail Development Authority, Merger of Rail Budget and Finance Budget, Railway Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), Six Dedicated freight corridor (DFC), Infrastructure Status to Station Redevelopment, Railway University to at Vadodara, Shrestha, Sutra, 'Rail Saarthi' app, Eliminated All Unmanned Level Crossing, RailCloud, NIVARAN, CCTV cameras under Nirbhaya Fund, Railway Protection Force helpline 182

Challenges	Misplaced Focus, Infrastructure not augmented to match the increase in number of trains, Failure of private participation, Financing issues, outdated accounting system , lack of empowerment, RDSO highly constrained
Way Forward- Recommendations of CAG, Bibek Debroy Committee, Anil Kakodkar Committee, Sam Pitroda Committee	Master Plans for stations, Increase the length of platforms , Restructuring of zones , reduce costs on non-core activities , switch to double entry accounting system, restructuring of RDSO, adoption of an Advanced Signalling System , switch from ICF coaches to LHB coaches , Attract private investment, Computerise Railway Human Resource Management System, Establish Indian Institute of Railway Research, reorganise the Railway Board, Railways Tariff Regulatory Authority, optimal utilisation of existing infrastructure, Ease organisational rigidity , Rationalise fare structures and subsidies, Switch to common transport documents.

6. Road Sector

Objectives	Complete Phase-I of Bharatmala and PMGSY, double length of NH, Improve regulatory framework , commitment to Brasilia Declaration
Government Initiatives	National Highway Development Plan, PMGSY, IBMS, Bhoomi Rashi, Bharatmala, Setu Bharatam, Green Highways, Road corridors, FASTag, 100% FDI, Register of Motor Vehicles
Challenges	Overstrained highways, Maintenance of existing infrastructure, Accidents and safety concerns, Cost escalation due to delays , Lack of availability of funds , Environmental concerns
Way Forward	Improve the implementation capacity , Maintenance of NH, Penalise poor quality maintenance , National Safety Board, Implement 2017 guidelines by MoRTH, Training at ITIs, R&D, Multi-modal solutions

10. Bharatmala

Features	umbrella programme on optimising efficiency. Components- Economic corridors, Inter-corridor roads & feeder roads, National Corridors Efficiency improvements, Border & International connectivity roads, Coastal & port connectivity roads, Green Field Expressways
Impact	employment , increase in GDP , attract investment , enhance economic activity , Increase in vehicle speed , decrease supply chain costs, makes other schemes attractive to investors, boost tourism , boost the associated industries , upliftment of the

	underdeveloped regions
Challenges	problems of funding and delays , operational issues, no clarity on private sector investments, Big construction companies missing from auctions
Way Forward	EPC projects, rope private sector , road map for timely completion , working with state government, include backward areas

7. Agriculture Subsidies

What is it?	governmental financial support to farmers and agribusinesses. Different Types are Input subsidy, Price subsidy, Infrastructural subsidy, Export subsidy
Various Forms, Government Initiatives, Issues, Solution	<p>Fertiliser- New Pricing Scheme. Issue- indiscriminate use—> loss of soil fertility. Solution- awareness, SHC, neem coated urea, organic farming</p> <p>Credit- NABARD, loans at 4% interest</p> <p>Debt Waiver- Government takes over liability</p> <p>Power- subsidised rate to farmer, Issue- overuse —> groundwater depletion. Solution- Separate agriculture feeder network</p> <p>Seeds- <u>High yielding variety</u> seeds at subsidised prices, <u>promotion of R&D</u></p> <p>Price (MSP) Issue- cereal centric, biased to rich farmers and rich states. Solution- Crop diversification</p>
Need for rationalisation	poor targeting , Diversion of limited monetary resources, Inefficient subsidy system, Detrimental impact on environment , free commodity promotes inefficient use
Way Forward	<p>Targeting the right segments, Optimization of the subsidy, Use of JAM trinity, subsidies to high-value commodity sectors like poultry and dairying, Resolving marketing and logistics constraints, interest subvention scheme, strengthening formal baking in rural areas</p> <p>NITI Aayog Recommendations-</p> <p>Link SHCs with Kisan Credit Cards, Reorient fertiliser subsidy policy, Align pesticide framework with food safety laws, Targeted subsidy on liquid fertilizers, Financial inclusion, Use of technology</p>

8. Model Agriculture Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017

Objectives	create a single agriculture market with a single license , wholesale agri-market every 80km , no separate fees for individual markets.
Features	recognition of a State/UT as a single market , restriction-free trade, Disintermediation of food supply chain, conducive environment for private wholesale market yards and farmer-consumer market yards, direct interface between farmer and buyer, warehouses/silos/cold storages and other structures/space as market sub-yard , Freedom to the farmers to sell their produce, Promotion of e-trading , single point levy of market fee , national market , Rationalisation of charges , <u>Special Commodity Market-yard and Market-yard of National Importance (MNI)</u> , democratisation of Market Committee and State/UT Marketing Board.
Benefits	better price realisation , increased avenues to sell their produce, multiple fees eliminated, access to national markets , doubling farm income , for food processing industries raw material would be made available at lower prices , maintain healthy food inflation , direct interaction between farmers and end-users

9. Fisheries

Status	As per Eco survey 2019 Fisheries sector has shown a rapid growth , India is the second largest fish producer , 50% of inland fish production is from culture fisheries , Fish and fish product exports emerged as the largest group in agricultural exports .
Challenges	over exploited , low productivity , loss of habitat , high cost , Low investment , Inadequate supply of resources , Slow adoption of new technologies , deep-sea fishing , Inadequate cold chain infrastructure , Loss of biodiversity , Security of fishermen, Lack of a reliable database , Water pollution , Lack of fiscal and policy support
Government Initiatives	In Budget 2019-20, new fisheries department , Blue Revolution – Neel Kranti Mission, National Policy on Marine Fishery, 2017, PM Kisan Matsya Sampada Yojana
Way Forward	inland fisheries, Investment in hatcheries , cage culture , fill large infrastructure gaps, R&D NITI Aayog Suggestion- Integration Blue Revolution with MGNREGA, fish cooperatives

10. Micro-Irrigation

What is it?	focused application of water to achieve higher cropping and irrigation intensity
Benefits	Increase in water use efficiency , Energy Efficiency, Fertilizer Use Efficiency, Productivity increase, Irrigation cost saving , New crop introduction, Increase in farmer's income
Reasons for low penetration	Initial high costs , limited knowledge , poor implementation of government policies, lack of Regular monitoring , energy crisis
Challenges	policy concerns, Delays in subsidy disbursement , Lack of private financing , farm-sizes diminishing , Lack in support for maintenance , schemes yet to be operational
Way Forward	make micro-irrigation core scheme , other alternatives for saving water, re-appraisal of farmers' subsidy/credit schemes, encourage private financing , increase support staff

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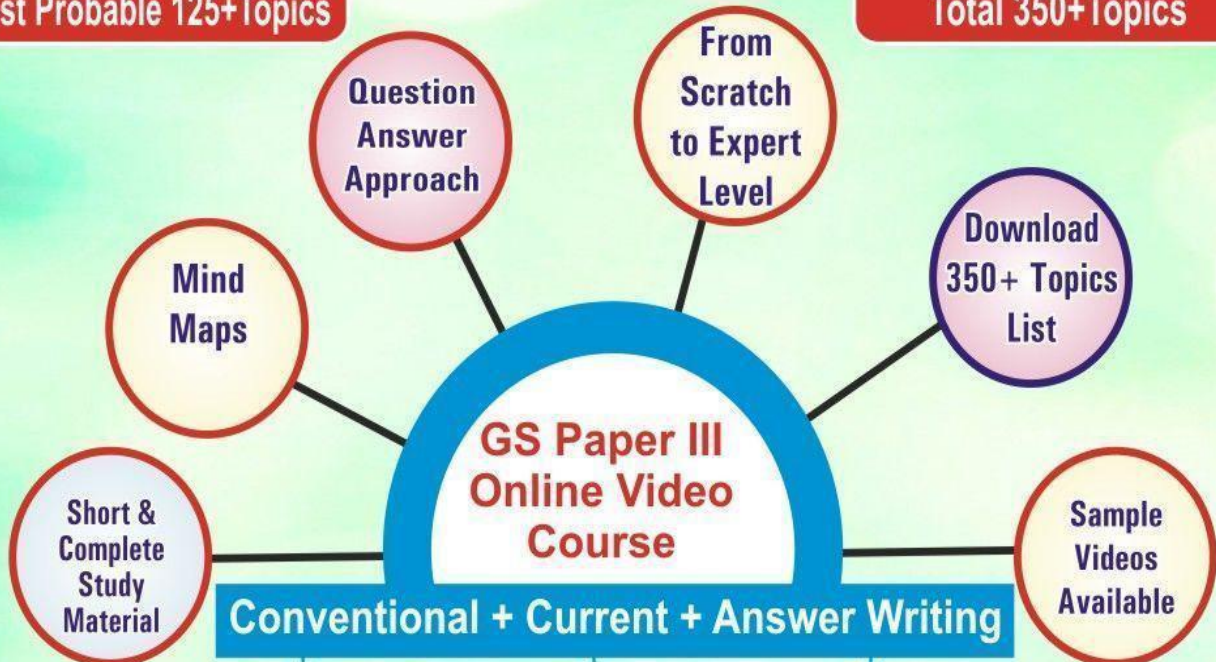
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